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SET IN SCOTLAND

A journey through big screen locations

BEST CINEMATIC DESTINATION

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

Featuring

Avengers • Batman • The BFG • Flash Gordon • Frankenstein
Harry Potter • James Bond • King Arthur • Mary Stuart
Pikachu • Renton • Robert the Bruce

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CONTENTS



The village of Pennan in Aberdeenshire.

Set in Scotland takes you on a journey through film. Inside are just some of those movies which have been shot in Scotland.

From ancient mountain ranges, mysterious stone circles, lush green glens and deep lochs to castles, stately homes and vibrant cities, many Scottish destinations and attractions have graced the big screen.

The country has been a playground for filmmakers and dazzled cinemagoers ever since the first Scottish film, *The Departure of the Columba from Rothesay Pier*, was screened at The Skating Palace (latterly the ABC nightclub and music venue) in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, in 1896. Use the links found throughout the guide for more film content on **visitscotland.com**.

For more on Scotland's links to the small screen, see our sister publication *TV Set in Scotland*.

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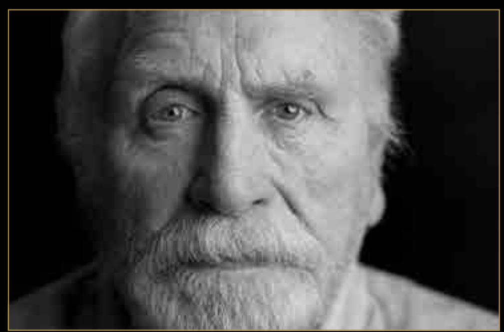
Chris Pine in Outlaw King, © NETFLIX / David Eustace; World War Z, © Martin Breslin; Daniel Craig in Skyfall, © United Archives / Topfoto; Jacobite steam train passing over the Glenfinnan Viaduct; Monty Python and the Holy Grail, © Photo 12 / Alamy Stock Photo; The Calanais Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis; Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible, © LANDMARK MEDIA / Alamy Stock Photo; Eilean Donan Castle on the banks of Kyle of Lochalsh.

FOREWORD - JAMES COSMO MBE



Chris Pine (left) as Robert the Bruce with James Cosmo, in Outlaw King. © NETFLIX / David Eustace

> "There is a magical quality to films shot in Scotland that reaches all corners of the world."



James Cosmo MBE
Actor
© Cristian Solemino

Braveheart (page 12), *Get Duked!* (page 21), *Highlander* (page 8), *Outlaw King* (page 14), *Trainspotting/T2: Trainspotting* (pages 10, 25, 39), *Whisky Galore!* (page 18)



The Crinan Canal on which The Maggie (1954) was filmed.

Scottish films have formed connections throughout my life.

One of my very first memories is as a child with my sister on the Crinan Canal in Argyll watching the Maggie (during production of *The Maggie*) puffing through. My father, James Copeland, played the ship's Mate in that wonderful 1954 British comedy (see page 45).

Its director, the great Ealing Studios filmmaker, Alexander Mackendrick, had already crafted another classic comedy, *Whisky Galore!* (I played a part in the 2016 remake), which took production to Barra in the Outer Hebrides, several years earlier.

The neighbouring island of South Uist was the location of one of my early short films – *The Duna Bull* (1972) – directed by Laurence Henson and photographed by Edward McConnell, under their Films of Scotland banner. It was a lovely light-hearted comedy about islanders faced with having to replace their only bull.

I have warm affection for my early films, and Laurence and Edward were real lovers of filmmaking in Scotland.

All those Scottish films have that same whimsical charm as a personal favourite of mine (of which I played no role) - *Local Hero* (see page 19).

Director Bill Forsyth drew on that deep well of Scottishness, crafting a truly lyrical and magnificent film that continues to connect with people around the world.

That lyrical quality of the people is just one of the reasons why so many filmmakers are drawn to our beautiful country. It is our vast landscapes; from those imposing and dramatic mountains and lochs, and coastlines that stretch for miles, to the enchanting architecture of our cities, towns, and villages that, with each step, take you from modern day to those gone by.

Scotland can be Scotland or, as it has been many times in the past, Philadelphia, San Francisco, London, Stockholm, even, New Asgard. It is home to the fantastical and fictional places of Brigadoon, Today, Ferness and Hogwarts.

There is a magical quality to films shot in Scotland that reaches all corners of the world.

They are the thread that binds the Scottish diaspora and a window to the wonders of what makes our country special.

Throughout my career I have been privileged enough to be involved in many that have made a real connection with audiences worldwide.

People still come up to me while in Scotland and tell me they are here because they watched Scottish films such as *Braveheart* or *Highlander*. And what is wonderful, is that the films are only the starting point. They then form a strong connection with the real country – it may be because of their ancestors or the feeling they get while they're here. That stays with them.

That is the powerful connection of film.

GENRES



Rocket comes to New Asgard (St Abbs) in Avengers: Endgame. © Dom Slike / Alamy Stock Photo



The Princess Switch 2: Switched Again.
NETFLIX © 2020



The Wicker Man. © Ronald Grant Archive / Topfoto

Animation

Scotland's landscapes are rich in inspiration, myth and legend, so it's no surprise that they provide the backdrop for some well-loved animated tales. The Celtic and Pictish designs of the Outer Hebrides inspired Disney's *Brave*. The Inner Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland, meanwhile, provided the basis for the Isle of Berk in *How to Train Your Dragon*. Scotland's iconic cityscapes have also been drawn on for artistic inspiration. Critically acclaimed *The Illusionist*, based on an unproduced script by Jacques Tati, perfectly captures the capital's character, with some well-known Edinburgh sites including Arthur's Seat and the former department store, Jenners.

Horror

A trip to Scotland could never be classed as horrific, though that hasn't stopped filmmakers from making use of our rural and urban settings to scare filmgoers. Perthshire stood in for the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina as a group of female friends get more than they bargained for when they go caving in the claustrophobic scare-fest, *The Descent* (and its sequel). The experience certainly wasn't frightening enough to stop director Neil Marshall returning to Scotland for apocalyptic actioner *Doomsday* and Roman-set *Centurion*. For iconic horrors, most don't hold a burning effigy to British classic *The Wicker Man* which is synonymous with the Galloway coastline, while the metropolitan streets of Glasgow stood in for Philadelphia in the opening scenes of the tense zombie apocalypse thriller *World War Z*.

Action/Adventure

From fast-paced scenes to epic conundrums, Scotland has seen its fair share of action in films. Just a short trip outside the capital sits the stunning Rosslyn Chapel and, with its fascinating history and intricate stonework, it makes for a dazzling climax to the Tom Hanks-starring *The Da Vinci Code*. The Highlands is no stranger to pulse-quickening pictures, with Glen Nevis making an appearance in *Detective Pikachu*, *Harry Potter* and *Rob Roy* to name just a few, while Dumfries and Galloway played host to Tom Cruise's daring railway climax in the original *Mission: Impossible*.

Romance

With a literary pedigree that includes the likes of Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott, Scotland is not immune to a romantic overture. The same is true of its film appearances, whether it be the expansive views from Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat, some of Edinburgh's popular romantic spots, in the adaptation of David Nicholls's *One Day*, or the splendour of stately home, Hopetoun House, in the festive feel-good *The Princess Switch* series. Glasgow too tugs strongly on the heartstrings, with renowned filmmaker Ken Loach's *Ae Fond Kiss* (named after the Burns song) encapsulating the diverse vibrancy of Scotland's 'dear green place'.

Comedy

Scots are famous for their dry humour and sense of the absurd which has lent itself to some light and darkly comic moments on-screen. The gritty realism of Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* (and its sequel *T2*) is offset by its black humour with Edinburgh's Princes Street and Leith appearing alongside... Glasgow which doubles for Edinburgh (shh, don't tell the locals). The Outer Hebrides offers a more light-hearted comedy, *Whisky Galore!* Set on the fictional Isle of Todday, the 1949 original film was largely shot on Barra (the 2016 adaption used the picturesque seaside town of Portsoy) and is based on the true story of a village which discovered a shipwreck carrying 50,000 cases of whisky during wartime rationing.

Drama

Scotland's history and culture is not short on drama, be it in our stories or in our landscapes. And so it is that many filmmakers return time and time again to classic tales and new adaptations. In the Highlands, Glen Coe has become the setting for some of the most dramatic, from espionage thrills (*Skyfall*) to historical adventures (*Mary Queen of Scots*). And who can forget the iconic beach run in *Chariots of Fire* along the West Sands in St Andrews?

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Rugged mountains, scenic coastlines, quaint villages and modern cities make Scotland the star of science fiction and fantasy films. Edinburgh provided the backdrop for an epic battle scene in *Avengers: Infinity War*, taking place on Cockburn Street and Waverley Station, while Thor and the rest of the Asgardians found a new homeland in the fishing village of St Abbs (now 'twinned' with New Asgard) in *Avengers: Endgame*. Thor is even featured sampling Scotland's 'other' national drink – Irn Bru. Wester Ross and the Isle of Skye created a fairy tale quality in *Stardust*, based on the fantasy novel by Neil Gaiman, and the opening scene of *The Dark Knight Rises* introduced Scotland to the Batman saga. The dark knight returned with Robert Pattinson donning the cowl as Glasgow doubled for Gotham City.

Film Focus

There are some films and filmmakers that are intrinsically linked with a region. From *Local Hero* in Aberdeenshire to *Harry Potter* in the Highlands - not forgetting award-winning English film director, Ken Loach, whose vast body of work is synonymous with Glasgow.

Key

Animation | Action/ Adventure | Comedy | Drama | Horror/ Thriller | Romance | Science Fiction/ Fantasy | Film Focus

> "It's unique to the world and there's a beauty there: the fact that there's four seasons in one day! It's snowing, it's hailing, it's raining but it's also sunny! I remember one shot on Highlander 3 with snow in the foreground and a sunset in the background. It was pure magic."

Christopher Lambert, star of *Highlander* (1986)

NORTH



Highlands & Skye, Outer Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring

The BFG • *Brave* • *Braveheart* • *The Dark Knight Rises* • *Detective Pikachu* • *The Edge of the World* *Edie* • *Flash Gordon* • *Harry Potter series* • *Highlander* • *It's Nice Up North* • *Limbo* • *Loch Ness* *Missing Link* • *Our Ladies* • *Prometheus* • *The Road Dance* • *Seachd: The Inaccessible Pinnacle* *The Spy in Black* • *Stardust* • *Trainspotting* • *Transformers: The Last Knight* *2001: A Space Odyssey* • *What We Did On Our Holiday* • *Whisky Galore!*

TV & Film blogs

Find out more here



Sheila Hancock scaled Suilven in Edie. © Arrow Films



The Old Man of Hoy appears in Giant Country in The BFG.

EDIE (2018)

Starring: Suilven and Lochinver, Highlands

English actress Sheila Hancock stars as an 83-year-old widow who decides to climb the 731 metre (2,398 feet) tall mountain Suilven, in the sumptuous surroundings of Assynt in Sutherland – a feat which was carried out for real by the actress herself during filming. Directed by Simon Hunter, the film co-stars Kevin Guthrie (*Sunshine on Leith*) as a reluctant local guide who joins Edie on her quest. Filming took place in and around Lochinver and during the shoot the entire crew scaled the mountain, camping out over several nights. Suilven is part of the North West Highland Geopark, which covers 2,000 km^2 from the Summer Isles to Cape Wrath and Kyle of Tongue.

STARDUST (2007)

Starring: Quiraing, Isle of Skye

Sequences of the fantasy film *Stardust* (dir. Matthew Vaughn), with an ensemble cast that features Robert de Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer and Ricky Gervais, were shot at the Quiraing on the eastern face of the 543 metres-high Meall na Suiramach.

THE BFG (2016)

Starring: Old Man of Storr, Isle of Skye and Old Man of Hoy, Orkney

The remarkable landscape of the Isle of Skye has had a mesmerising effect on holidaymakers and filmmakers alike in recent years. Legendary director Steven Spielberg used digitally enhanced footage of Skye as the backdrop of Giant Country for the film adaptation of Roald Dahl's literary classic, *The BFG*. The Old Man of Hoy, an imposing sea stack off the coast of Hoy, also features.

DETECTIVE PIKACHU (2019)

Starring: Glen Affric and Glen Nevis, Highlands

Scotland is home to plenty of mythical and magical creatures, so it seems appropriate that it was used for the countryside setting of the fantastical world of *Pokémon*. The film (dir. Rob Letterman) follows Tim Goodman, played by Justice Smith, who teams up with wisecracking Pikachu (voiced by *Deadpool*'s Ryan Reynolds) to uncover the mystery around the death of Goodman's father. As the action transfers from Ryme City, a city where humans and Pokémon live together in harmony, to the country, Glen Nevis can be seen in all its glory.



Sean Connery and Christopher Lambert as immortals in Highlander. © LANDMARK MEDIA / Alamy Stock Photo

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT (2017)

Starring: Quiraing, the Storr and Trotternish Ridge, Isle of Skye

The long-running *Transformers* franchise came to Scotland for its fifth instalment (dir. Michael Bay) when it took an Arthurian slant on the mythology, as the Autobots race against time to find an ancient artefact before the evil Decepticons. These transformers may be renowned for their shape-changing disguises but there is little disguising the Isle of Skye, in particular the Storr, which appears as the location of a spaceship.

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY (2014)

Starring: Wester Ross, Highlands

To the east of Skye, the beach visited by Sir Billy Connolly and his on-screen grandchildren in the Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin directed comedy-drama is found in Wester Ross. As the camera sweeps over the landscape, it's easy to see why the serene sands of Redpoint were chosen for the movie's pivotal moments. See also page 33.

HIGHLANDER (1986)

Starring: Eilean Donan Castle, Highlands

Sitting on the banks of Kyle of Lochalsh is one of the most instantly recognisable castles in the world. Eilean Donan in Dornie was transformed into the castle and village of Glenfinnan for the cult hit, *Highlander* (dir. Russell Mulcahy), with Christopher Lambert in the lead role as immortal Connor MacLeod and Scots actor Sean Connery as Juan Sánchez-Villalobos Ramírez. Lambert would later return to Scotland for *Highlander 3* (dir. Andy Morahan, 1994).

SEACHD: THE INACCESSIBLE PINNACLE (2007)

Starring: Sgurr Dearg, Isle of Skye

This Gaelic language feature (dir. Simon David Miller) was shot entirely on Skye, including the Sleat peninsula in the south of the island. The story follows a young man's journey as he uncovers the truth about the death of his parents and his grandfather's incredible stories. Unable to afford a helicopter, amazingly the cast and crew climbed Sgurr Dearg, of the famous Cuillin mountain range, four times during the production. Splitting the camera and equipment into rucksacks, they endured the four-hour climb to the summit before filming.



The Storr and the Old Man of Storr, Isle of Skye.

PROMETHEUS (2012)

Starring: Old Man of Storr, Isle of Skye

It's been said that James Cameron was inspired by Skye when he created the world of *Avatar* (2009), one of the biggest movies of all time. Whether that is the case or not, one director to fall for the island's ethereal charms was Sir Ridley Scott, who shot the opening scenes of *Prometheus*, the prequel to the science fiction *Alien* series, at the Old Man of Storr. In the scene, archaeologist Dr Elizabeth Shaw (Noomi Rapace) discovers ancient cave paintings with alien connections. The 50ft rock also features briefly in *Snow White and the Huntsman* (dir. Rupert Sanders, 2012).

LOCH NESS (1995)

Starring: Loch Diabaig, Highlands

Despite the title, it was Loch Diabaig in Wester Ross which substituted for the more famous loch in John Henderson's family film, starring Ted Danson and Joely Richardson. Still, the 90 miles from the real location is a mere stone's throw compared to the 11,500 miles between Loch Ness and New Zealand's Lake Wakatipu, which doubles for Nessie's home in *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep* (dir. Jay Russell, 2007).

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.
© Ronald Grant Archive / TopFoto



HARRY POTTER SERIES (2001–2011)

Starring: Glenfinnan Viaduct, Loch Shiel and Glen Coe, Highlands

The Glenfinnan Viaduct in Lochaber has been an icon of the Highlands ever since its construction in 1898. It reached further stardom in 2002 following the release of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (dir. Chris Columbus). The movie versions of Edinburgh-based author JK Rowling's books have wowed millions all over the world. In the second of the eight films, the Hogwarts Express passes over the viaduct as Harry hangs on for dear life to Ron's flying Ford Anglia. Visitors to the region can get into the Harry Potter spirit by taking a ride on the Jacobite, a steam train that operates over part of the West Highland Line, crossing the viaduct. Nearby Loch Shiel, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard on the shore, marking the beginning of the 1745 Jacobite Rising, also appears as the Black Lake throughout the film series. Hagrid's Hut was built on location in Clachaig Gully in Glen Coe, just five minutes' walk from the Clachaig Inn, while Glen Nevis formed the backdrop to Quidditch matches, and the beautiful Steall Falls are seen during the Tri-Wizard Tournament in *The Goblet of Fire* (dir. Mike Newell).



A group of Shetland Ponies roaming the hills on Foula, Shetland, with Da Noup beyond.



John Laurie in The Edge Of The World.



Hosta Beach (Tràigh Stir) on North Uist.

TRAINSPOTTING (1996)

Starring: Corrour Railway Station, Highlands

Situated at Rannoch Moor on the Glasgow to Fort William line, as part of the The West Highland Line (one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world), Corrour is the highest and most remote railway station in the UK. It is here in director Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* that Renton (Ewan McGregor) tells his friend Tommy (Kevin McKidd) that, in slightly more colourful language, being Scottish isn't all it's cracked up to be. See also pages 25, 39.

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (2012)

Starring: Loch Bealach Culaidh, Highlands

Director Christopher Nolan felt the vast desert plains of Arizona were too familiar to audiences and opted for the "more visually distinct" landscape of Ross-shire for the opening scenes of the closer of his Batman trilogy. Shrouded in secrecy, the film crew operated out of Inverness Airport, flying a C130 transport plane as part of the sequence in which arch villain Bane (Tom Hardy) escapes his CIA captors – showing amazing panoramic views above Loch Bealach Culaidh.

IT'S NICE UP NORTH (2006)

Starring: Shetland

Back in 2006, the most northerly part of the British Isles became the subject of an important scientific experiment. John Shuttleworth (aka comedian Graham Fellows), the renowned musician behind such hits as *Austin Ambassador Y Reg* and *Pigeons in Flight*, wanted to know whether there was any truth in the adage that it was, indeed, "nice up north". The documentary is a loving, and often hilarious, homage to the Islands, featuring interviews with locals and visits to the most interesting places, including the world's most northerly (and well-equipped) bus stop on Unst.

FLASH GORDON (1980)

Starring: Broadford Airfield, Isle of Skye

With a score by rock legends *Queen* and a lycra-clad cast, Mike Hodges' ultra-camp film version of comic book hero, *Flash Gordon*, fits firmly in the "so bad it's good" category. While the comic book hero, (played by Sam J. Jones), and company spend much of the movie battling Ming the Merciless (Max Von Sydow) on the planet Mongo, one of Flash Gordon's first scenes was shot on Skye. Broadford Airfield stands in for an airstrip in Dark Harbor, in Vermont's Green Mountains. This is where Flash and Dale are bombarded with dastardly Ming's hot hail but is perhaps equally notable for one of the first cinematic appearances of Scottish star Robbie Coltrane as a baggage handler.

THE EDGE OF THE WORLD (1937)

Starring: Foula, Shetland

The Edge of the World was originally inspired by the true story of the depopulation of the Outer Hebridean island of St Kilda in 1930. However, it was Foula's majestic hills, sheer cliff faces and distinctive natural features which ultimately provided the unforgettable natural backdrop to this tempestuous romantic adventure by director Michael Powell. The movie stars a young John Laurie who, in later life, would find huge television fame as Private James "we're doomed!" Fraser in classic BBC television comedy, *Dad's Army*.

LIMBO (2021)

Starring: Uist

This comedy-drama from director Ben Sharrock, centres on musician and asylum seeker Oman (Amir El-Masr) who has fled conflict in Syria and now finds himself on the Outer Hebrides awaiting the decision of his refugee status. The film was inspired by personal stories from Sharrock's network of friends in Damascus, where he studied shortly before the outbreak of the civil war. Uist is made up of six inhabited islands, linked by causeways, plus The Monach Isles, off the coast of North Uist, which have been uninhabited since 1948.

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (1968)

Starring: Loch Airigh, Isle of Harris

Harris gained a well-earned reputation for being 'out of this world' when it doubled for the surface of Jupiter in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Budget constraints saw producers reluctant to fund a second unit excursion to the far reaches of the solar system, so legendary director Stanley Kubrick was forced to look elsewhere to get his memorable shots of astronaut Dave Bowman (Keir Dullea) flying across the psychedelic landscape. Kubrick settled on Harris, with nine out of ten cinema-goers unable to tell the difference as the rocky shores of Loch Airigh play a vital role in one of the most influential science fiction films of all time.

THE SPY IN BLACK (1939)

Starring: Scapa Flow and Old Man of Hoy, Orkney

Set on the island of Hoy, *The Spy in Black* saw renowned British filmmaker Michael Powell return to the north of Scotland following *The Edge of the World*, for his first pairing with scriptwriter Emeric Pressburger, a collaboration which would eventually make both household names. This racy spy thriller is set during the First World War, when Orkney provided the naval base for the British fleet. One of the film's stars, Sebastian Shaw, would become better known for his brief but memorable appearance as the unmasked Darth Vader (aka Anakin Skywalker) in 1983's *Return of The Jedi*.



Mel Gibson (right) directs a scene in Glen Nevis on the set of Braveheart. © Photo 12 / Alamy Stock Photo.

BRAVEHEART (1995)

Starring: Glen Nevis, Highlands

While director Mel Gibson's medieval epic about 13th century Scottish freedom fighter, William Wallace, may have been historically hazy, it was a bona fide box office smash and to this day is still referenced by visitors - particularly by those who visit The National Wallace Monument in Stirling. The Monument stands at 220ft tall with breathtaking views towards Fife and Loch Lomond. *Braveheart* featured extensive filming around Glen Nevis, most notably in a scene in which William Wallace (Gibson himself) runs across the ten peaks of the Mamores, high above Loch Leven. Glen Nevis also gets medieval in Bill Forsyth's time-spanning comedy drama, *Being Human* (1994) starring comedian Robin Williams.

OUR LADIES (2021)

Starring: Fort William, Highlands

A snow-capped Ben Nevis (Scotland's highest mountain), looks down on Fort William in 1996, for Michael Caton-Jones's first Scottish feature since *Rob Roy* (see page 21). Based on the novel, The Sopranos, the comedy follows a group of Catholic school girls, from the town on the shores of Loch Linnhe, who take a trip to Edinburgh for a choir competition - but are more interested in drinking and partying away from the prying eyes of Sister Condron (Kate Dickie). See also page 29.

MISSING LINK (2019)

Starring: Loch Ness and Nessie, Highlands

Scotland's famously shy creature makes a decidedly grumpy appearance in the Laika Studios' animation, *Missing Link* (dir. Chris Butler). Nessie spars with explorer Sir Lionel Frost (voiced by Hugh Jackman) as he tries to take a photograph of the Loch Ness monster to prove its existence. It is not the first time the monster has been glimpsed on screen. Nessie has been referenced to, or made a cameo in, countless films and TV shows over the years, including *The Simpsons*, *Ghostbusters*, *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Monsters Inc*, *South Park*, *Doctor Who* and *Futurama*. In real life the monster was caught on camera in 1934 in what is known as the "Surgeon's Photograph" – which ultimately proved to be fake. And in 2016, an underwater sonar-imaging investigation of the loch revealed a 30-foot Loch Ness Monster model used from the 1970 film, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, nestled in its depths.

BRAVE (2012)

Starring: Calanais Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis

Animators from Disney-Pixar were drawn to Lewis while researching the mysterious standing stones (dir. Mark Andrews and Brenda Chapman). The stones, which form the backdrop to the film's dramatic climax, are modelled on the Bronze Age monoliths, Calanais Standing Stones. See also page 20.



Pictured with Kisimul Castle off its shores, Castlebay played Todday in Whisky Galore!

WHISKY GALORE! (1949)

Starring: Isle of Barra

Based on the popular novel by Compton Mackenzie, the classic 1949 Ealing version of *Whisky Galore*! (dir. Alexander Mackendrick) sees the inhabitants of the fictional islands of Great and Little Todday in their element when a ship transporting 50,000 cases of whisky runs aground. The true story on which the film is based began when a ship called the SS *Politician*, which was carrying a cargo of whisky, ran aground on the small island of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides. Eriskay had only one road and a single main street so the *Whisky Galore*! producers opted to set the film on the slightly larger, neighbouring 23-square miles island of Barra. Ealing Studios had opted to shoot the entire film on location, using the whole island as a giant set during the wild and unpredictable summer of 1948. The main street (the only street) of the island of Todday in *Whisky Galore!* was filmed in the village of Castlebay and the current Post Office served as the island store in the film, while the old Castlebay village hall was used as a makeshift studio and exteriors and interiors were shot all over the island. The one exception is the final chase scene of *Whisky Galore!* which was re-shot on the more forgiving south coast of England.



Hermione Corfield and Ali Fumiko Whitney as sisters in The Road Dance. © Parkland Entertainment

THE ROAD DANCE (2022)

Starring: Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, Isle of Lewis

Based on John MacKay's historical novel of the same name, *The Road Dance* (dir. Richie Adams) stars Hermione Corfield as Kirsty MacLeod, who dreams of a better life away from her small village on an island in the Outer Hebrides. However, the outbreak of the First World War and a fateful road dance take her life on a dramatic and tragic turn. Filming predominantly took place at the restored Gearrannan Black House Village near Carloway on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis with the coastline reflecting the mood of the film – beautiful, but at times unforgiving. Gearrannan Black House Village was occupied by crofting families right up until the 1970s. It now provides self-catering accommodation. Further north, Historic Scotland's The Blackhouse at Arnol also offers a further glimpse into island life under a thatched roof.

MONARCHS OF THE GLENS

From Shakespeare's dramatisation of the 11th century king, Macbeth, to Diana Gabaldon's Jacobite adventure Outlander, storytellers have found inspiration from Scotland's turbulent royal past. The arrival of cinema allowed filmmakers to match the country's historic drama with its atmospheric landscapes. Here is a filmic lineage of Scotland's on-screen monarchs.

MACBETH

Justin Kurzel, 2015

Director Justin Kurzel brought William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, with Michael Fassbender in the lead role, to the big screen to critical acclaim. Production took place on the Isle of Skye, with many landmarks featuring. The Quiraing is seen when Macbeth returns from battle and is appointed The Thane of Cawdor by King Duncan. In another shot, Macbeth is seen riding past the striking Old Man of Storr, a 50ft rock. This wasn't the first time the Scottish play appeared on the big screen. In 1997, Jason Connery (son of Sir Sean) starred as the title character, alongside Helen Baxendale as Lady Macbeth, with director Jeremy Freeston bringing the production to Dunfermline Abbey. The real 11th century king was far removed from the central character in Shakespeare's immortal play. Locations linked to the real king and Fassbender film form the VisitScotland map, *'Macbeth: The Man, Myth & Legend'*.



Michael Fassbender as Macbeth.

OUTLAW KING

David Mackenzie, 2018

Based on the life of the famous Scottish monarch, *Outlaw King* charts the story of Robert the Bruce (played by Chris Pine), from defeated nobleman in 1304 to victorious King of Scots at the Battle of Loudoun Hill in 1307 (rather than Bannockburn, as seen in *Braveheart*). Director David Mackenzie felt like he had been location scouting his entire adult life – the film is as much about the land itself as the King of Scots. Entirely shot in Scotland, according to the nation's geographical boundaries of the time (which included Berwick), locations include: Dunfermline Abbey, the real-life resting place of the King of Scots, doubles as Westminster, and St Michael's Chapel in the grounds of Linlithgow Palace, plays Bruce's castle chapel where he marries Elizabeth. VisitScotland produced an online map, *On the trail of the Outlaw King*, which highlights 20 filming locations and 24 sites linked to the Bruce, from Annandale in Dumfries and Galloway, where the King of Scots was raised, to Claigan Coral Beach on the Isle of Skye, which portrays the island of Islay in the film. Dunfermline Abbey also has a starring role in the 1996 version of Robert the Bruce's life, *The Bruce* (dir. Bob Carruthers and David McWhinnie) starring Sandy Welch as Robert I of Scotland, while Skye was the



Chris Pine as Robert the Bruce.

Scottish location of choice for Angus Macfadyen's return to the role of the Scots King, in *Robert the Bruce* (dir. Richard Gray, 2019), a semi-sequel to Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*.

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Josie Rourke, 2019

Mary Stuart became Queen of Scots at six days old, Queen of France at 16, was widowed twice at 18 and 24, reigned for only six turbulent years and was executed on her cousin's order at 44. Saoirse Ronan stars as the Scottish Queen, with Margot Robbie as her cousin, Elizabeth I, in the film charting Mary's return to Scotland. Josie Rourke, who directs, wanted to film as much as possible in Scotland, with production taking place in the Highlands, Cairngorms National Park, and Blackness Castle (which saw its courtyard double for the entrance to Holyrood Palace). VisitScotland created an online map featuring 19 historical sites and six on-screen locations linked to Mary Queen of Scots, including her birthplace of Linlithgow Palace. This wasn't the first time Mary Stuart was brought to the screen. Hermitage Castle (one of the most haunted sites in the UK) near Newcastleton, featured in *Mary, Queen of Scots* (dir. Charles Jarrott, 1971) which starred Vanessa Redgrave (who was Oscar-nominated for her portrayal of Mary) and Glenda Jackson (as Elizabeth I).



Saoirse Ronan as Mary.

MRS BROWN

John Madden, 1997

Initially earmarked as a television movie, *Mrs Brown* (dir. John Madden) became a critical and commercial success. Starring Dame Judi Dench as Queen Victoria, the film focuses on the monarch's relationship with a Scottish servant, John Brown (Sir Billy Connolly, pictured right) following the death of her husband, Prince Albert. Duns Castle doubles for their Highlands holiday residence, Balmoral, while the stables at Manderston, a magnificent Edwardian mansion in Duns, double for those at Windsor Castle. Dame Judi would return to the role of Queen Victoria in *Victoria & Abdul* (2017) with filming at Highland locations including Glen Affric and the stunning and wild Glenfeshie in Cairngorms National Park.



Dame Judi Dench as Victoria.

THE QUEEN

Stephen Frears, 2006

Director Stephen Frears charts the response of the Royal Family to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, with Dame Helen Mirren in Oscar-winning form as Elizabeth II. Production came to Scotland for its portrayal of the Royal residence Balmoral. Cluny Castle and Castle Fraser in Aberdeenshire and Culzean Castle in Ayrshire were used in exterior shots while the opulent interior of Blairquhan Castle, Maybole, was used to depict the interior of Balmoral. It is here that Her Majesty meets with Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen, pictured right).



Dame Helen Mirren as Elizabeth II.

"Everybody remembers the opening jogging scene along the beach. We'd been filming in Edinburgh so shot these scenes at St Andrews since it's close, although it's meant to be Broadstairs in Kent. There was no wind, the light was totally flat, but we didn't have time or money to wait. As luck would have it, though, a grain of sand got into the camera and scratched the negative, so we had to go back and redo it. This time the wind was up, creating all those white horses on the sea."

Hugh Hudson, director of *Chariots of Fire* (1981)

EAST



Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire, Moray Speyside, Dundee & Angus, Perthshire, Fife

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring

A Shot at Glory • Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius • Brave
Captain America: The First Avenger • Chariots of Fire • The Descent • The Descent: Part 2
Get Duked! • Hamlet • Local Hero • Never Let Me Go • On a Clear Day • The Railway Man
Rob Roy • Stone of Destiny • Sunset Song • Tommy's Honour • Under the Skin
Victor Frankenstein • Whisky Galore! • The Winter Guest

Macbeth locations

Find out more here



Arbroath Abbey.

STONE OF DESTINY (2008)

Starring: Arbroath Abbey, Angus

Based on the true story of a group of students (played by Charlie Cox, Kate Mara, Billy Boyd and Stephen McCole) who stole the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey in 1950, production of *Stone of Destiny* (dir. Charles Martin Smith) took place across Scotland and culminated with scenes shot at Arbroath Abbey, where the students handed over the stone to the authorities in real life. The real stone was returned to Scotland in 1996 where it was housed at Edinburgh Castle alongside The Honours of Scotland. It is set to be the centrepiece of a new museum based at Perth City Hall (due to open in 2024).

A SHOT AT GLORY (2001)

Starring: East Neuk, Fife

Oscar winner, Robert Duvall, came to Fife in the late Nineties to film *A Shot at Glory* (dir. Michael Corrente). Tapping into the great Scottish Cup upsets of the past, the film features former Scotland and Rangers superstar Ally McCoist in his first acting role. Away from the football pitches, the views of the harbour in the fishing village of Crail make it obvious why Corrente was drawn to the East Neuk.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN (2015)

Starring: Dunnottar Castle, Aberdeenshire

Not afraid of Aberdeenshire's tropical climate, another film crew came to Stonehaven to shoot *Victor Frankenstein* (dir. Paul McGuigan), in which Scottish actor James McAvoy joins Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe for a new spin on the Mary Shelley classic.



Ian Charleson as Eric Liddell in Chariots of Fire.

CHARIOTS OF FIRE (1981)

Starring: St Andrews, Fife and Sma' Glen, Perthshire

The Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire* (dir. Hugh Hudson), about the stories of Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell, who raced for the gold in the 1924 Olympics, picked Fife for one of British cinema's most iconic moments; Liddell (Ian Charleson) running in slow motion to Vangelis's unforgettable score across the West Sands of St Andrews. Perthshire is well known as being the "gateway to the Highlands" and the *Chariots of Fire* crew felt a field in the Sma' Glen, around five miles north of Crieff, was the perfect substitute for an athletics meet. As the name would suggest, the glen is on the small side at only four miles in length. But while small in size, it is big on history. Formerly the site of a Roman fort and watchtower, part of one of General Wade's infamous military roads (built by the British Government to link its forts and try to keep the Jacobites in check) was constructed here in 1730. At the northern end of the Sma' Glen, make sure you keep your eyes peeled for Clach Ossian or Ossian's Stone, an 8ft-high monolithic stone sited where the river and the road almost touch. This is reputed to be the burial place, in about AD300, of the legendary Gaelic bard Ossian.



Gregor Fisher in the 2016 version of Whisky Galore! © Arrow Films

WHISKY GALORE! (2016)

Starring: Portsoy, Moray and Pennan, Aberdeenshire

The real-life story of the SS *Politician* which ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky during wartime rationing has inspired not one but two versions of the tale. Alexander Mackendrick's 1949 comedy, based on the 1947 novel by Compton Mackenzie, was shot almost entirely on location in the Outer Hebrides (see page 13). The 2016 version by director Gillies MacKinnon was filmed across Scotland, including Portsoy Harbour, Aberdeenshire; Mill Beach, New Aberdour Beach, Pennan, St Monan's Parish Church, Fife and Luss, Argyll.

SUNSET SONG (2015)

Starring: Glen Tanar Estate, Aberdeenshire

One of Scotland's most famous novels, Lewis Grassic Gibbon's *Sunset Song* was brought to the big screen by director Terence Davies. Starring Peterhead-born Peter Mullan and former model Agyness Deyn (as Chris Guthrie), it tells the powerful story of a young farmer, Chris, who endures a series of hardships whilst working the land in Aberdeenshire at the turn of the 20th century and outbreak of the Great War. Set in the fictional estate of Kinraddie, whilst the harvest scenes were filmed in New Zealand, production was also shot on location in its spiritual home of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, including the Glen Tanar Estate in Royal Deeside.



Dunnottar Castle.

HAMLET (1990)

Starring: Dunnottar Castle, Aberdeenshire

Mel Gibson, the man who brought the name of Wallace to the cinematic masses in *Braveheart* (1995), came to Dunnottar to portray the Prince of Denmark in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (dir. Franco Zeffirelli). See also page 32.

UNDER THE SKIN (2013)

Starring: Auchmithie, Angus

Based on the acclaimed satirical novel by Michel Faber, the film (dir. Jonathan Glazer) sees Scarlett Johansson as an alien in human form who has an appetite for human flesh, preying on unsuspecting Scottish men. Auchmithie was chosen for its picturesque but rugged harbour, the kind of landscape that can only be found in Scotland. See also pages 28, 38.

TOMMY'S HONOUR (2017)

Starring: St Andrews, Fife

Directed by Jason Connery and based on the critically acclaimed book by Kevin Cook, young Tom Morris (Jack Lowden) is considered the first true superstar of golf, winning The Open four times before he was 21. Old Tom (played by Scottish acting veteran Peter Mullan) was not only a four-time Open winner, but he is also credited with designing or influencing around 60 courses throughout the UK and Ireland, many of which are still considered among the world's best. Probably Old Tom's greatest legacy is the Old Course at St Andrews, where he created the 1st and 18th holes – the most famous starting and finishing holes in golf.



Linn of Tummel.

THE DESCENT (2005) / PART 2 (2009)

Starring: Linn of Tummel and Dunkeld, Perthshire

Perthshire is renowned for its adrenaline adventure sports to get the blood pumping, and blood – and caving – is very much at the core of the Neil Marshall horror flick, *The Descent*. It follows a group of six women (led by Scottish actress Shauna MacDonald) as they embark on a caving expedition in the Appalachian Mountains, little knowing that their adventure is about to turn into a nightmare thanks to a horde of flesh-eating monsters. The opening shots of the film, which sees members of the group white-water rafting, were shot at the Linn of Tummel, near Pitlochry. And although the film was set in America, a number of the exterior scenes, the vast expanse of which contrasts sharply with the terrifying claustrophobia of the caves, were also filmed in the Dunkeld region. Those surviving members of the cast returned to Scotland to film *The Descent Part 2*, this time directed by Jon Harris.

NEVER LET ME GO (2010)

Starring: St Andrews, Fife

Based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro, Scotland makes an appearance in the British dystopian drama (dir. Mark Romanek). Student halls of residence, Andrew Melville Hall, at the University of St Andrews, plays the Recovery Centre in Dover, where Kathy (Carey Mulligan) cares for 'donors' throughout their short life until they 'complete'.

Pennan's iconic red phone box in Local Hero. © Ronald Grant Archive / TopFoto



LOCAL HERO (1983)

Starring: Pennan, Aberdeenshire

Writer-director Bill Forsyth is synonymous with some of Scotland's best and most loved comedies. His biggest hit came in 1983 with the release of *Local Hero*. Set in the fictional Scottish village of Ferness (real life Aberdeenshire village, Pennan), it follows the story of Mac MacIntyre (Peter Riegert), an American yuppie whose attempts to build an oil refinery on behalf of his boss, Felix Happer (played by veteran screen legend Burt Lancaster), are scuppered by the locals and the local way of life. The iconic red telephone box which features in the film was actually a prop but that doesn't stop the village's original phone box being a popular haunt for film fans. Take a stroll along the waterfront and pop into the famous Pennan Inn – a place where, in the midst of a ceilidh, Mac begs landlord Gordon (Denis Lawson) to swap places with him, exchanging Houston for a quiet life in Scotland. The film also provides one of the earliest screen roles for Glasgow-born Peter Capaldi, an actor who would go on to fly around in another famous phone box – this time of the blue variety – as the 13th incarnation of The Doctor in the BBC's long-running sci-fi series, *Doctor Who*.



Drummond Castle Gardens appears in Rob Roy.



The Royal Burgh of Culross.

BOBBY JONES: STROKE OF GENIUS (2004)

Starring: St Andrews, Fife

Rowdy Herrington's biopic stars Jim Caviezel (best-known for playing Jesus in Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*) as the first man to win all four major golf championships. It is notable as the first movie featuring the Royal & Ancient Golf Club in St Andrews to be given permission to film on location.

BRAVE (2012)

Starring: Dunnottar Castle, Aberdeenshire

In 2012, Scotland claimed its first Disney Princess in the form of Merida, the strong-willed daughter of Queen Elinor and King Fergus. The influence of real Scottish locations is evident throughout the award-winning Disney-Pixar animated fantasy (dir. Mark Andrews and Brenda Chapman). A series of scouting missions by Disney animators included a trip to the incredible Dunnottar Castle, near Stonehaven, and it's clear that the princess's home of Dunbroch owes a great deal of its cinematic grandeur to the castle, not least its clifftop setting. While in reality, the castle saw little in the way of bears, rebellious redheads and ancient curses, Mary Queen of Scots, the Marquis of Montrose (the future King Charles II) and William Wallace were just some of its notable visitors. See also page 12.

ON A CLEAR DAY (2005)

Starring: Loch Monzievaird, Perthshire

A popular fishing spot and relaxing getaway, the loch is one of the places where Frank Redmond (Peter Mullan) and his friends begin training for his swim of the English Channel in Gaby Lellal's *On a Clear Day*. It's a life-affirming tale of triumph against the odds and bringing a family closer together as a result.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER (2011)

Starring: Culross, Fife

Chris Evans donned the famous star-spangled costume of Captain America in this, his first appearance as part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Directed by Joe Johnston, the film came to Culross which stood in as a Norwegian town as part of the World War II-set comic book fantasy. Seven years later Evans would return to Scotland, battling magical evil in the capital, in *Avengers: Infinity War* (see page 27). The 17th century royal burgh has also made an appearance in the film adaptations of children's fantasy, *The Little Vampire* (dir. Uli Edel, 2000), and Robert Louis Stevenson's landmark historical novel, *Kidnapped* (dir. Delbert Mann, 1971).



Liam Neeson as Rob Roy.
© Ronald Grant Archive / TopFoto

ROB ROY (1995)

Starring: Drummond Castle Gardens, Perthshire

Liam Neeson stars as the famous 18th century clan-leader-cum-outlaw in the Michael Caton-Jones film, with an Oscar-nominated turn by Tim Roth as the arch villain Archibald Cunningham. While the vast, untamed wilderness of the great Scottish outdoors were filmed mainly in the Highlands, scenes of the immaculately maintained gardens belonging to the Marquis of Montrose (John Hurt), were filmed at Drummond. Although the castle itself is not open to the public, the gardens, situated near Crieff, offer terrific views of the buildings and surrounding countryside – perfect for a relaxed, and ever so civilised, day out. Drummond Castle also features in a number of other movies, including *The Bruce* (dir. Bob Carruthers and David McWhinnie, 1996) and *Man to Man* (dir. Regis Wargnier, 2005), which stars Joseph Fiennes and Kristin Scott-Thomas, and will be a familiar sight for fans of TV series, *Outlander*.



Elie Ness Lighthouse appears in The Winter Guest.

GET DUKED! (2020)

Starring, Crieff, Perthshire

Originally titled, *Boyz in the Wood*, and the opening film of the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2019, this black comedy (dir. Ninian Doff) follows a group of delinquents carted to the Highlands by their teacher to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award. While there, they find they have more than the wilderness to contend with – as they come face-to-face with a shotgun-wielding Duke (Eddie Izzard). Despite being set in the Highlands, the majority of the production was filmed in the Perthshire landscape surrounding Crieff.

THE WINTER GUEST (1997)

Starring, Elie and Pittenweem, Fife

The hugely talented Dame Emma Thompson teamed up with her mum, the Scottish actress Phyllida Law, in this heart-warming tale filmed in the East Neuk villages of Elie and Pittenweem. Particularly notable as the directorial debut of the late Alan Rickman (best known as Severus Snape in the *Harry Potter* movies and Hans Gruber in the quintessential Christmas actioner, *Die Hard*), *The Winter Guest* features the lighthouse in Elie as well as the main A917 road through Pittenweem.

THE RAILWAY MAN (2013)

Starring: St Monans, Fife

This scenic part of the Kingdom attracted a pair of Oscar winners, when Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman came to the village of St Monans during the filming of *The Railway Man* (dir. Jonathan Teplitzky). An adaptation of Scottish war hero Eric Lomax's bestselling biopic, about tracking down those responsible for his torture in a Japanese prison camp, the village's charming church features in the movie. See also page 29.

HOORAY FOR BOLLYWOOD



Linlithgow Palace and St Michael's Parish Church by Linlithgow Loch.

Producers of Bollywood films, which are famous for their extravagant song-and-dance routines, have been flocking to Scotland since 1998. More than 20 Bollywood films, with megastars such as former Miss World Aishwarya Rai, Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan, have filmed at Stirling Castle, Linlithgow Palace, Culzean Castle and Traquair House among many other locations. Here are a few.

MAIN SOLAH BARAS KI

SWEET SIXTEEN

Dev Anand, 1998

As well as directing, Bollywood legend Dev Anand plays himself in this sweet comedy as he looks for a new actress to star in his upcoming movie. After finding no suitable candidates in India, he continues his search in the UK, meeting Tina (Neeru Bajwa) and 16-year-old Madhu Mehra (Sabrina), who takes more of a shine to him than he anticipated.

The movie was shot throughout Scotland, including the Mound, Parliament Square and St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh; the Forth Bridges viewed from South Queensferry; Union Street in Aberdeen; Fort William town centre; Urquhart Castle by Loch Ness; Inverness Castle esplanade; Crieff town centre; and Plockton.

KUCH KUCH HOTA HAI

SOMETHING HAPPENS IN MY HEART

Karan Johar, 1998

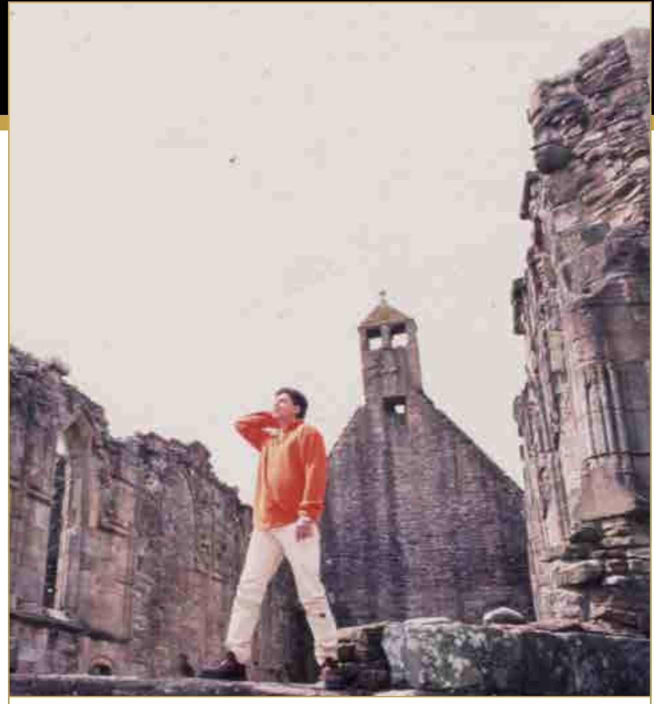
Karan Johar's directorial debut, which tells the story of two love triangles set several years apart, was the highest-grossing Indian film of 1998 and was the first Bollywood film to enter the UK cinema top 10. After shooting at a number of iconic Scottish landmarks, including Edinburgh's Royal Mile, Eilean Donan Castle in the Highlands, Crossraguel Abbey in Ayrshire and the Bass Rock and Tantallon Castle at North Berwick, the director said: "From the lush greenery to the beautiful castles and the breezy weather, Scotland made for the perfect romantic setting."

AARZOO

WISH

Lawrence d'Souza, 1999

While a number of Bollywood movies shot in Scotland use the country's landmarks during dream-like song-and-dance sequences, the country is sometimes part of the narrative. *Aarzoo* is a love story in which one of the central characters, Amar (Saif Ali Khan), studies in Edinburgh. He and the woman he loves, Pooja (Madhuri Dixit) are seen at a number of locations in the capital, including Edinburgh Castle, Princes Street Gardens and the Scott Monument. The action also moves out to the Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh, East Lothian, and to St Andrews (the Cathedral and St Rule's Tower), as well as Perth city centre.



Shah Rukh Khan (as Rahul) in Crossraguel Abbey for Kuch Kuch Hota Hai. © Dharma Productions

Another location used in the film is Scone Palace in Perthshire. Here, visitors can find the only known portrait of Dido Belle – the subject of the 2013 film *Belle* (Amma Asante), which stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Tom Wilkinson and Miranda Richardson and tells the story of the mixed-race daughter of a slave and a British admiral.

The Glenesk Hotel and Inglis Memorial Hall in the village of Edzell, Angus, double for Pooja's home, in a memorable scene in which she opens a window and pours a bucket of water over Amar.

Fans of Harrison Ford might recognise Amrish Puri, who plays Pooja's father. In *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (dir. Steven Spielberg, 1984), Puri plays the demonic Mola Ram, who attempts to pull out Indy's heart through his ribcage.

KANDUKONDAIN KANDUKONDAIN

I HAVE FOUND IT I HAVE FOUND IT

Rajiv Menon, 2000

Based on Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility, I Have Found It* focuses on two sisters with vastly different temperaments. Sowmya (Tabu), who is the more serious of the two, falls in love with an aspiring film director. While she is admired by a wounded commando, Captain Bala (Mammootty), her passionate younger sibling Meenakshi (played by former Miss India Aishwarya Rai) only has eyes for handsome young businessman Srikanth (Abbas).

The love song sequence, a lyrical Indian love ballad played out in a Scottish fairytale setting, was filmed at Eilean Donan Castle.

THREE: LOVE, LIES, BETRAYAL

Vishal Pandya, 2009

The story of married couple Anjini Dutt (Nausheen Ali Sardar) and Rajeev Dutt (Akshay Kapoor), their money worries and the troublesome arrival of a lodger Sanjay (Aashish Chaudhary), is played out against the background of the Highlands.

Urquhart Castle and Loch Ness both make an appearance, while Inverness features heavily.

Ashish and Nausheen's characters go shopping in the High Street, while Clansman Harbour, Greig Street Bridge, Eden Court Theatre, the Caledonian Canal and Tomnahurich Swing Bridge are also seen during the film. Achnagairn Castle in Kirkhill provides the luxury setting for Anjini's violin class, while the couple even walk across the pitch at the Caledonian Stadium – home to Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Club.

BELL BOTTOM

Ranjit M Tewari, 2021

Set in 1984 in India, RAW secret agent, Anshul Malhotra, code-named *Bell Bottom* (Akshay Kumar), is assigned to handle the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 691. Flashbacks show his personal experience with hijackings and how he became an agent.

The first Bollywood film to commence shooting after the 2020 pandemic lockdown, many of the London scenes of this thriller were filmed in Glasgow, including The Barras Market and Glasgow Prestwick Airport.

"It's a beautiful city obviously. We shot it at night because we were looking for a noirish kind of feel so we wanted a gothic tone to the sequence. The town was incredible, the support was incredible. The crew just had a fantastic time."

Joe Russo, co-director of *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018)



EDINBURGH

Edinburgh & The Lothians

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring

A Castle for Christmas • *Avengers: Infinity War* • *Cloud Atlas* • *The Da Vinci Code*
Death Defying Acts • *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga*
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Our Ladies • *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* • *The Princess Switch 2: Switched Again*
The Princess Switch 3: Romancing the Star • *The Railway Man* • *Shallow Grave*
Sunshine on Leith • *The 39 Steps* • *Trainspotting* • *T2: Trainspotting* • *Under the Skin* • *The Wife*

Harry Potter locations

Find out more here



The Concorde in the National Museum of Flight.

THE WIFE (2017)

Starring: National Museum of Flight, East Lothian

Directed by Björn Runge, Glenn Close stars as the titular wife to Jonathan Pryce's Nobel Prize-winning author on his trip to Stockholm to receive his award. Shot on location in Scotland, filming took place on board Scotland's only Concorde, in the National Museum of Flight near the village of East Fortune. Famously travelling faster than the speed of sound, the museum's Concorde recorded 8,064 flights with British Airways before the fleet was decommissioned in 2003. Museum visitors can discover what a transatlantic flight was like for passengers and crew and learn about the legacy of this iconic aircraft. See also pages 36, 49.

THE ILLUSIONIST (2010)

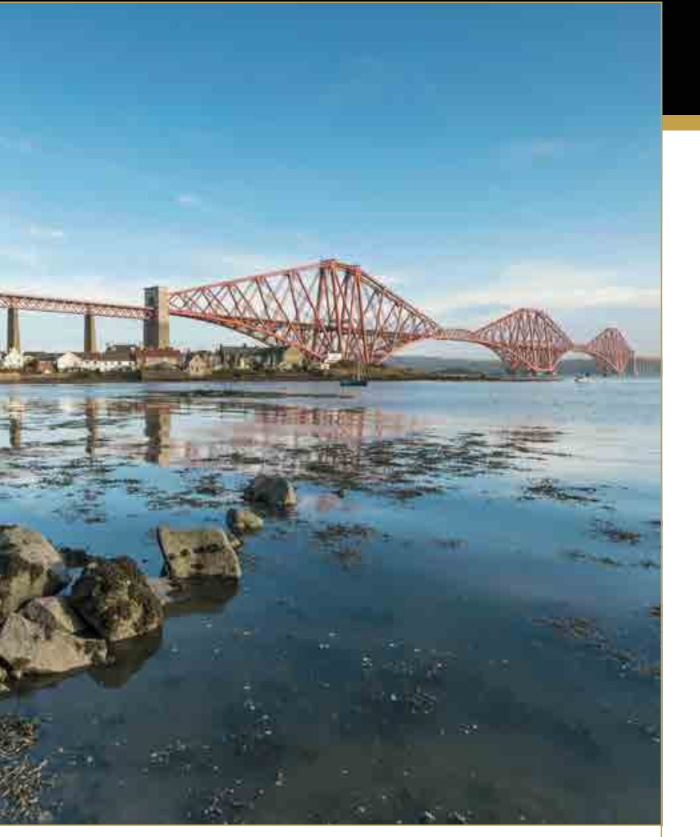
Starring: Princes Street, Edinburgh

The beautiful British-French animation directed by Sylvain Chomet, and set in the 1950s, finds an out-of-work illusionist travel to Edinburgh where he takes up work in the former Jenners department store.

FAST & FURIOUS 9 (2021)

Starring: Edinburgh Old Town

The fastest and most furious saga returned to Scotland for its ninth outing, directed by Justin Lin, with Vin Diesel's Dom Toretto and the gang battling Toretto's brother (John Cena) in an explosive chase by car and rooftop through the streets of the Old and New Town.



The Forth Bridge appeared in Hitchcock's The 39 Steps.

TRAINSPOTTING (1996) / T2: TRAINSPOTTING (2017)

Starring: Edinburgh

It is on Princes Street that Renton (Ewan McGregor) and Spud (Ewen Bremner) make good their escape from burly shop security staff in the opening scene of Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* (dir. Danny Boyle), accompanied by a soundtrack of Iggy Pop and Renton's "choose life" monologue. The scene where Renton nearly runs afoul of a car was shot at the top of Calton Road, next to Waverley Station. Twenty years later, cast and crew reunited for the sequel, painting the city in a far more tranquil light. See also pages 10, 39.

THE 39 STEPS (1935/1959)

Starring: Forth Bridge

The iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site, Forth Bridge, makes its appearance in not one but two versions of John Buchan's thriller *The 39 Steps* (dir. Alfred Hitchcock, 1935 and Ralph Thomas, 1959); however, the setting of Richard Hannay's daring escape is not lifted from the pages of the novel and only appears on-screen.



Vin Diesel and John Cena face off on Edinburgh's streets in Fast & Furious 9. © LANDMARK MEDIA / Alamy Stock Photo

DEATH DEFYING ACTS (2007)

Starring: Scott Monument, Edinburgh

The life of illusionist Harry Houdini is brought to the screen by Gillian Armstrong with Guy Pearce in the title role. The story follows Houdini on his travels to Edinburgh where he meets Mary McGarvie (Catherine Zeta-Jones) and her daughter Benji (Saoirse Ronan). The Scott Monument makes its appearance on screen when Houdini takes Mary and her daughter up the 287 steps of the monument by night.

SHALLOW GRAVE (1994)

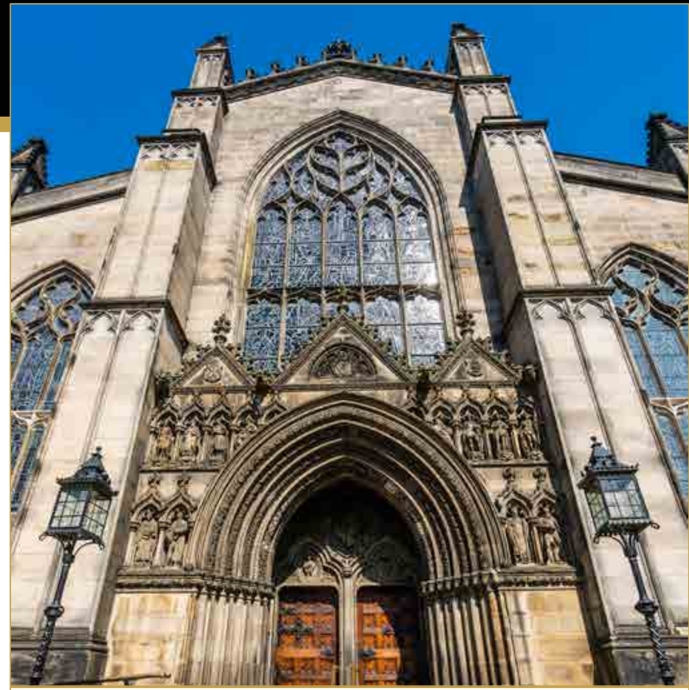
Starring: New Town, Edinburgh

The directorial debut of Danny Boyle, who would return to the Scottish capital just a few years later to film *Trainspotting*, famously opens with the camera zooming through the streets of the New Town to the thumping beats of Leftfield. Later, Alex Law (Ewan McGregor) is also seen driving along North Bridge - constructed by the same contractors who built the Forth Bridge - with The Scotsman Hotel in the background. See also page 39.

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST: THE STORY OF FIRE SAGA (2020)

Starring: The Royal Mile and Holyrood Park, Edinburgh

Back in 1972, the Scottish Capital hosted the Eurovision Song Contest after Monaco, which won the year before, was unable to provide a suitable venue. The international music competition returned to the city, albeit in fictional form, in *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga*. Directed by David Dobkin, the film follows Icelandic musicians Lars (Will Ferrell) and Sigrit (Rachel McAdams), performing together as Fire Saga, who are selected to battle it out for the coveted title in this outrageous comedy. Filming took place across Edinburgh (movie magic transposes the OVO Hydro in Glasgow to The Royal Mile) with Princes Street Gardens and the Ross Fountain, New Town and Newhaven Harbour all featuring – while parts of Holyrood Park, home of Iron Age forts and Bronze Age agricultural terraces, double for the home of some Icelandic elves. See also page 38.



St Giles' Cathedral on The Royal Mile.

HALLAM FOE (2007)

Starring: Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh

Directed by prolific Scottish filmmaker, David Mackenzie, and based on the novel by Peter Jinks, Hallam Foe (Jamie Bell) suspects his stepmother is responsible for his mother's death and travels to Edinburgh where he falls for Kate (Sophia Myles). The film was shot on location in the city, including Cockburn Street and the Caledonian Hotel in Princes Street where Kate gets Hallam a job. See also page 47.

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE (1969)

Starring: Barnbougle Castle, South Queensferry

The celebrated big-screen version of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (dir. Ronald Neame), for which Dame Maggie Smith won a Best Actress Oscar as Muriel Spark's protagonist, makes great use of Edinburgh's splendid architecture. The grand Cramond home of Mr Lowther (Gordon Jackson), where Miss Brodie takes her girls for weekend getaways, was filmed at Barnbougle Castle, which is situated on the shore of the Firth of Forth between South Queensferry and Cramond. Marcia Blaine School for Girls, where Miss Jean Brodie practises her off-the wall teaching methods, was filmed at the former Donaldson's School for the Deaf near Haymarket, while Greyfriars Kirkyard also makes an appearance.

Captain America (Chris Evans) appears at Waverley Station.



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (2018)

Starring: Cockburn Street, St Giles' Cathedral and Waverley Station, Edinburgh

Captain America (Chris Evans) returned to Scottish shores for the first time since his Marvel Cinematic Universe debut (Captain America, see page 20) for the third instalment of the Avengers film series (dir. Anthony and Joe Russo). Vision (Paul Bettany) and Wanda (Elizabeth Olsen) are hiding out in the Scottish capital when they are attacked by Thanos's followers and after a skirmish in Chambers Street and on the roof of St Giles' Cathedral, it is Cap, Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and The Falcon (Anthony Mackie) who come to their rescue in Waverley Station. An aerial shot of Edinburgh Castle - home of the Honours of Scotland, the oldest Crown jewels in Britain – can be seen as the heroes fly off. Some eagle-eyed viewers may be distracted by a notice on the wall of the fictional 'Hunsu Kebab House' in Cockburn Street, during a quieter scene between Vision and Wanda, which offers customers a chance to 'deep fry your kebab' – a play on Scotland's famous culinary creation, the deep-fried Mars Bar.



Vanessa Hudgens in Hopetoun House, in The Princess Switch 3. Mark Mainz/NETFLIX © 2021

THE PRINCESS SWITCH 2: SWITCHED AGAIN (2020) / 3: ROMANCING THE STAR (2021)

Starring: Hopetoun House, West Lothian, Gosford House, East Lothian, and Newbattle Abbey College, Midlothian

In the vein of *The Prince and the Pauper*, the first in this rom-com festive series saw Vanessa Hudgens (*High School Musical*) play Chicago baker Stacy De Novo who switches places with Lady Margaret Delacourt, Duchess of Montenaro (also played by Hudgens). The sequel and threequel (dir. Michael Rohl) saw not only Hudgens switch again but so too production, as it moved from Romania to Scotland, across Edinburgh and the Lothians, with 17th century stately home, Hopetoun House, playing the royal home of Delacourt.

CLOUD ATLAS (2012)

Starring: Scott Monument, Edinburgh

At the east of Princes Street Gardens is a "gothic rocket ship", as American writer Bill Bryson described it, dedicated to the memory of Sir Walter Scott. Completed in 1844, the Scott Monument stands at just over 200ft high and is one of Scotland's most instantly recognisable landmarks. In *Cloud Atlas* (dir. The Wachowskis and Tom Tykwer), the monument is visited by composer Robert Frobisher (Ben Whishaw) in the 1936 segment of the movie. The City Chambers also makes an appearance. See also pages 31, 36.



North Berwick over Milsey Bay Beach.

SUNSHINE ON LEITH (2013)

Starring: Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

In Princes Street Gardens, you can try to re-create the flash dance to The Proclaimers' *500 Miles*, as featured in Dexter Fletcher's feel-good musical *Sunshine on Leith*. If you prefer, *I'm on my Way*, you can sing and dance in Ally and Davy's footsteps on Leith's Constitution Street.

ONE DAY (2011)

Starring: Edinburgh

Based on the bestselling Edinburgh-set novel by David Nicholls, the film, directed by Lone Scherfig, sees Emma Morley (Anne Hathaway) and Dexter Mayhew (Jim Sturgess) meet and fall in love at the University of Edinburgh. The city is featured extensively in the film, with other locations including Cockburn Street, Victoria Street and Arthur's Seat – the extinct volcano that looks down on the Scottish Parliament.

UNDER THE SKIN (2013)

Starring: Tantallon Castle, North Berwick

The 14th century fortress is visited by Scarlett Johansson's mysterious alien seductress in the science fiction film directed by Jonathan Glazer, based on the novel by Michel Faber. See also pages 18 and 38.



Rosslyn Chapel is a key part of The Da Vinci Code.

THE DA VINCI CODE (2006)

Starring: Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian

Just a few miles to the south of Edinburgh lies Rosslyn Chapel, a key location in both the book and the film of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. The international bestseller, which was brought to the big screen by Ron Howard, suggests that the 15th century building is the final resting place of the Holy Grail. Tom Hanks filmed the climactic scenes with *Amelie* star Audrey Tatou on location. Due to vital restoration work, the chapel was under scaffolding at the time of filming, so a miniature version was built on site.

THE RAILWAY MAN (2013)

Starring: East Lothian

Oscar winners Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman were in various East Lothian locations, including North Berwick, Cockenzie and Port Seton, to film scenes for *The Railway Man* (dir. Jonathan Teplitzky), the harrowing true story of Scottish former prisoner of war Eric Lomax. A beachfront house in Milsey Bay, North Berwick, doubles for Lomax's house in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, while Gilmerton House is where Eric and Patti spend their wedding night. See also page 21.

OUR LADIES (2021)

Starring: Edinburgh

Director Michael-Caton Jones's passion project was filmed across the city. Grassmarket, Cockburn Street and Charlotte Square make an appearance. Club and live music venue, The Liquid Room on Victoria Street, plays The Pillbox nightclub, while tech incubator, CodeBase on Castle Terrace, doubles for a police station. See also page 12.



Cary Elwes and Brooke Shields in A Castle for Christmas. Mark Mainz/NETFLIX © 2021

GREYFRIARS BOBBY (1961)

Starring: Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh

The kirkyard plays a pivotal role in Disney's *Greyfriars Bobby* (dir. John Chaffrey) as this is where the heartbroken pooch mourns for his owner, Auld Jock. A popular attraction among the millions of visitors to Edinburgh is the statue of Bobby, a Skye Terrier, which can be found just a stone's throw from the National Museum of Scotland – on the corner of Candlemaker Row and George IV Bridge. Legend has it that, in the 19th century, Bobby sat by his master's grave for some 14 years. Although the film features a wonderful shot from Calton Hill, much of the filming for *Greyfriars Bobby* was done in the studio.

A CASTLE FOR CHRISTMAS (2021)

Starring: Dalmeny House, South Queensferry

Bestselling American author Sophie (Brooke Shields) journeys to Scotland where she falls in love with a castle (played by Dalmeny House, home to the Earls of Rosebery since 1662). But her plans to buy it are put in jeopardy when the owner, a grumpy Scottish Duke named Myles (Cary Elwes), is reluctant to sell to a foreigner. In addition to the stately home, the film (dir. Mary Lambert) features Tantallon Castle in East Lothian, Dakota Hotel near South Queensferry, and Edinburgh Airport.

"We started out in Blackness [Castle] and went to Aviemore, Glen Feshie, Glen Coe. We travelled around a lot, and on the weekends I'd go off and discover the country a bit. I love it – absolutely love working up here."

Saoirse Ronan, star of *Mary Queen of Scots* (2019)



CENTRAL

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, Stirling & Forth Valley

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring

The Angels' Share • *Cloud Atlas* • *Doomsday* • *The Eagle* • *Hamlet*
Kidnapped • *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* • *Swallows and Amazons*
Tunes of Glory • *What We Did On Our Holiday*

Mary Queen of Scots locations

Find out more here



Stirling Castle appears in various guises on film.

KIDNAPPED (1971)

Starring: Stirling Castle

One of Scotland's most famous attractions, Stirling Castle originally dates back to the 12th century. In the years that followed, it was the scene of multiple sieges, and in 1543 saw Mary Stuart crowned Queen of Scots in the Chapel Royal. James V's Palace at the castle can now be seen by visitors much as it would have looked on completion around 1545 and is one of the finest and best-preserved Renaissance buildings in Britain. The castle appears in a number of films including *Kidnapped* (dir. Delbert Mann), starring Sir Michael Caine as Alan Breck Stewart, *Gregory's Girl* follow-up, *Gregory's Two Girls* (dir. Bill Forsyth, 1999) and the John Landis comedy about the infamous 19th century Edinburgh body snatchers and serial killers, *Burke & Hare* (2010).

TUNES OF GLORY (1960)

Starring: Stirling Castle

Based on the 1956 debut novel by Scottish author James Kennaway, the film (dir. Ronald Neame) stars Alec Guinness and John Mills as Army officers struggling against each other to win the respect of a peacetime battalion. Filming at the castle was restricted to exterior shots – including the final dramatic scene in which Major Jock Sinclair (Guinness) is driven away in a Jeep – after the commanding officer of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders apparently took exception to a lurid front cover of Kennaway's book.



The Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway.

CLOUD ATLAS (2012)

Starring: Clackmannanshire Bridge and Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway

While not opened until 2008, the Clackmannanshire Bridge is transported to 1973 San Francisco in *Cloud Atlas* (dir. The Wachowskis and Tom Tykwer). Digital trickery is used to show journalist Luisa Rey (Halle Berry) crossing the bridge towards a nuclear power station. A popular attraction in the region, which also appears in *The Railway Man* (see page 29), the steam trains of Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway give people a chance to step into the more recent past. One of the stops, Birkhill Station, can be seen in the film. See also pages 28, 36.

SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS (2016)

Starring: Loch Venachar

The picturesque loch located just five miles from Callander appears in the adaptation of Arthur Ransome's children's novel *Swallows and Amazons* (dir. Philippa Lowthorpe) about a group of children on an adventurous holiday in the Lake District during the 1930s. To the south of the loch is a network of cycling and walking forest trails. Follow the trails over the hills to the Lake of Menteith – Scotland's only official lake – which is home to the ancient island priory, Inchmahome.



Loch Katrine seen from the summit of Ben A'an in The Trossachs.

DOOMSDAY (2008)

Starring: Loch Katrine and Blackness Castle

This apocalyptic actioner, directed by Neil Marshall, imagines a plague unleashed in Scotland which results in the country sealed off from England by the way of a huge wall – aka Hadrian's Wall. With the possibility of a cure found within its borders, a crack team is sent to retrieve it, led by Rhona Mitra. Among the locations used were Brenachoile Forest near Loch Katrine and Blackness Castle, which is the home to scientist Marcus Kane (played by Malcolm McDowell). Marshall was no stranger to Scotland having filmed *The Descent* (see page 19) here and would return after *Doomsday* with the Michael Fassbender-starring *Centurion*. It isn't the first time that Loch Katrine has provided inspiration for storytellers. Sir Walter Scott used its waters for the setting of his famous poem, *The Lady of the Lake*. The poem became a hit with Victorian readers who were drawn to the area to see the loch for themselves.

THE EAGLE (2011)

Starring: Loch Lomond

Scotland's Roman past was brought to life in 2011 with *The Eagle*, Kevin Macdonald's adaptation of Rosemary Sutcliff's novel, *The Eagle of the Ninth*. Starring Channing Tatum, the sword and sandals epic tells the story of a Roman legion that supposedly went missing in 2nd century Scotland. Parts of the film were shot at the world-famous Loch Lomond, the bonnie banks of which were once home to the legendary Scottish "rogue" Rob Roy MacGregor. Those seeking more on the Romans in Scotland should venture to Callendar House in Falkirk which is home to a permanent exhibition on the Antonine Wall, of which remnants of a wall ditch can be found in its grounds.

HAMLET (1990)

Starring: Blackness Castle

The 15th century ship-like fortress of Blackness near Linlithgow was used for scenes depicting Elsinore Castle in Franco Zeffirelli's 1990 adaptation of *Hamlet*, which starred *Braveheart*'s Mel Gibson as the Prince of Denmark. See also page 18.



Callendar House in Falkirk.

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY (2014)

Starring: Loch Katrine

Rob Roy's birthplace at Glengyne lies on the shores of Loch Katrine – where Billy Connolly can be seen fishing in *What We Did On Our Holiday* (dir. Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin). The grave of the 18th century Scottish outlaw and folk hero can be visited in the grounds of Balquhidder Kirk. The village of Doune and Blairdrummond Safari & Adventure Park also star in the comedy drama about family visiting the Scottish Highlands (see also page 8). The story of Rob Roy Macgregor was famously brought to the screen in 1995 by Scottish director Michael Caton-Jones starring Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange (see page 21).

THE ANGELS' SHARE (2012)

Starring: Deanston Distillery

The critically acclaimed comedy-drama won director Ken Loach the Jury Prize at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival, with Deanston Distillery, on the banks of the River Teith, playing a major role. It is during a visit to the distillery that the central character of Robbie (Paul Brannigan) discovers he has a talent for whisky tasting and fuels his subsequent decision to make a mint from a priceless malt. The village itself, meanwhile, has the honour of making an even bigger contribution to cinema – being the birthplace of John Grierson (born 1898), founder of the British documentary movement. Grierson was brought up in Cambusbarron and a plaque features on the old school house in the Stirlingshire village - marking his old childhood home.

The knights arrive at Doune Castle.



MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975)

Starring: Doune Castle

A severely limited budget meant the crew of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (dir. Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam) were determined to squeeze every last drop of production value out of Doune Castle. Situated eight miles north-west of Stirling, the 14th century building was shot from different angles to give the illusion that it was multiple locations. In the opening scene, King Arthur (Graham Chapman) and his servant Patsy (Terry Gilliam) approach the east wall, where the soldiers above point out to them that only an African swallow, as opposed to its European cousin, would have the strength to carry a coconut. Doune also doubles for Camelot, with the Knights of the Round Table singing about their tendency to "eat spam a lot" in the Great Hall. The server and kitchen appear as Castle Anthrax, where Sir Galahad the Chaste (Michael Palin) must fight his basic human urges, while Sir Lancelot (John Cleese) causes mayhem at a royal wedding in the courtyard and Great Hall. The giant Trojan Rabbit is seen being wheeled through the castle's entrance and into the courtyard. Co-director Jones can be heard on the Doune Castle audio guide. *Game of Thrones* and *Outlander* fans will also recognise the castle as both Winterfell (in the pilot) and Castle Leoch (the fictional seat of Clan MacKenzie), respectively. See also page 45.

"Glasgow really opened their arms – they were very welcoming, and especially for doing the stunts that I was looking to try to do, we really needed the perfect partner. I feel very fortunate, as a lot of different cities weren't as cooperative, so to have that kind of welcome energy is something that these films – this film – definitely needed."

Justin Lin, director of *Fast & Furious 6* (2013)

GLASGOW



Greater Glasgow & The Clyde Valley

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring

Ae Fond Kiss • *The Angels' Share* • *Anna and the Apocalypse* • *The Batman* • *Cloud Atlas* • *Carla's Song* • *Death Watch* • *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga* • *Fast & Furious 6* • *Gregory's Girl* • *Hobbs & Shaw* • *The House of Mirth* • *The Last Bus* • *Madeleine* • *My Name is Joe* • *1917* • *Shallow Grave* • *Small Faces* • *Sweet Sixteen* • *That Sinking Feeling* • *Trainspotting* • *Under the Skin* • *The Wife* • *Wild Rose* • *World War Z*

Scottish Film locations itinerary

Find out more here



Timothy Spall in The Last Bus. © Parkland Entertainment



Newark Castle in Port Glasgow.

THE LAST BUS (2021)

Starring: Bridgeton Bus Garage, Glasgow

Timothy Spall stars as 90-year-old Tom Harper who, after the death of his wife Mary (Phyllis Logan), travels the 874 miles from their home at Scotland's most northern mainland point John O'Groats to Land's End in England. Despite the epic journey, the cast and crew never left Scotland, instead Scottish director Gillies MacKinnon made clever use of Scottish locations and real regional buses to recreate the route. Most of the filming took place in and around Glasgow, including at the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust's Bridgeton Bus Garage on Fordneuk Street. The exterior of the former Corporation bus garage was used for bus stops and depots, while sets were built in the interior of the museum which is home to around 130 vintage buses, coaches, commercial vehicles, and fire appliances.

SMALL FACES (1996)

Starring: Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, and Glasgow School of Art

Director Gillies MacKinnon's 60s-set coming-of-age tale in the city's ganglands was the launch-pad for Scots stars Laura Fraser, Joe McFadden and Iain Robertson. Kelvingrove and the Glasgow School of Art both make an appearance.

1917 (2019)

Starring: Govan Graving Docks, Glasgow

The former dry docks on the Clyde, just a stone's throw from the Glasgow Science Centre Tower, were transformed into a war-torn bridge and part-village in 1917 France for the WW1 film. Krysty Wilson-Cairns, the Scottish writer who co-wrote the script with director Sam Mendes, named one of the trenches in the film after the city's famous thoroughfare, Sauchiehall Street.

ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE (2018)

Starring: Port Glasgow, Inverclyde

Based on the 2010 BAFTA-winning short film *Zombie Musical* (written and directed by Ryan McHenry), *Anna and the Apocalypse* (dir. John McPhail) wouldn't be what you'd call a traditional festive flick. Ella Hunt plays Anna Shepherd who is planning her gap year when a zombie apocalypse strikes at Christmas. Filming of the musical took place across Port Glasgow which doubled as the fictional town of Little Haven, with beautiful views over the wintry Firth of Clyde, including the timber ponds. The shipbuilding town dates back to the 15th century when George Maxwell built Newark Castle.



Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is Grand Central Station in The House of Mirth.

THE HOUSE OF MIRTH (2000)

Starring: Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow

Glasgow's cinematic splendour saw it stand in for New York in the Terence Davies adaptation of *The House of Mirth*, which stars Gillian Anderson as socialite Lily Bart. Masquerading as various parts of the Big Apple are the City Chambers, Kelvinbridge, St Vincent Place, the Theatre Royal, Great Western Road and, appearing as Grand Central Station, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, of which its stunning architecture is matched by regular organ recitals in its Centre Hall. See also page 48.

WILD ROSE (2018)

Starring: Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry and Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow

Fresh out of prison, a Scottish woman (Jessie Buckley) juggles her job and two children while pursuing her dream of becoming a country music star. The comedy-drama was directed by Tom Harper and filmed on-location across the city. Real country music venue, Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry, appears, as does the Old Fruitmarket as part of the city's music festival, Celtic Connections.

THE WIFE (2017)

Starring: Hutchesons Hall, Glasgow

Directed by Björn Runge, Oscar-nominated Glenn Close stars as the titular wife to Jonathan Pryce's Nobel Prize-winning author on his trip to Stockholm to receive his award. Former hospital and A-listed building, Hutchesons Hall in Ingram Street, stood in for the bar where Close is quizzed by a suspicious journalist played by Christian Slater. See also pages 25, 49.

CLOUD ATLAS (2012)

Starring: Douglas Street, Glasgow

Co-directed by *The Matrix's* Wachowskis and German film-maker Tom Tykwer, the film version of David Mitchell's Booker Prize-nominated novel, *Cloud Atlas*, came to Glasgow with Oscar winner Halle Berry in tow. Just north of the city centre runs Douglas Street, with its steep descent from Blythswood Hill making it a perfect substitute for the hills of San Francisco in *Cloud Atlas*. It gets a little help from a green sign bearing the name "Spring Street". The West Quadrangle of the University of Glasgow also appears, doubling for the University of Cambridge. See also pages 28, 31.



Glasgow's City Chambers is transposed to Philadelphia in World War Z. © Martin Breslin

FAST & FURIOUS 6 (2013) / HOBBS & SHAW (2019)

Starring: Glasgow city centre

The *Fast & Furious* franchise first set foot in Scotland in 2013 when its sixth instalment (dir. Justin Lin) took to the financial services district of Glasgow for some thrilling chase scenes. Six years later the franchise returned to the city for its spin-off, *Hobbs & Shaw* (dir. David Leitch) starring Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham and Idris Elba. The headline car chase through the streets of London between our heroes and Elba's villain actually took place more than 400 miles away in Glasgow, standing in for the English capital.

WORLD WAR Z (2013)

Starring: George Square, Glasgow

It may come as a surprise to many, but the crowd scenes in Brad Pitt zombie flick *World War Z* (dir. Marc Forster) weren't filmed in Philadelphia, but in the west of Scotland. Those familiar with Glasgow's historic George Square found it difficult to miss as the camera sweeps over the amazing Victorian architecture – and hordes of the undead.

Ken Loach on the set of Sweet Sixteen in Port Glasgow. © Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert / Alamy Stock Photo



KEN LOACH

Renowned English filmmaker Ken Loach has visited Glasgow on numerous occasions, with his gritty dramas *Carla's Song* (1996), *My Name is Joe* (1998), *Sweet Sixteen* (2002), *Ae Fond Kiss* (2004) and *The Angels' Share* (2012) all being shot on the city's streets.

DEATH WATCH (1980)

Starring: City Chambers, Glasgow

The impressive City Chambers appeared in the seldom-seen French sci-fi movie *Death Watch* (dir. Bertrand Tavernier), starring Romy Schneider, Harvey Keitel, Harry Dean Stanton and Max von Sydow. Set in a time when death from disease has become a rarity and those afflicted are the subject of intense media focus, Tavernier chose Glasgow to represent "any city of the future". He was fascinated by a city in transition following the razing of the tenements, while the Glasgow Necropolis, the huge Victorian cemetery near St Mungo's Cathedral, also features prominently. Travel west from the city to Paisley for another sci-fi classic. Before *Prometheus* (see page 9), Paisley Abbey was the nearest Scotland came to the *Alien* film series – featuring a gargoyle that looks surprisingly like the Xenomorph from Ridley Scott's 1979 film.



Scarlett Johansson as an alien prowls Glasgow in Under the Skin. © LANDMARK MEDIA / Alamy Stock Photo

THE BATMAN (2022)

Starring: The Necropolis, Glasgow Cathedral and Bridge of Sighs, Glasgow

Riddle me this: which Scottish city puts the gothic into Gotham? Glasgow, of course. Some of the city's famous gothic architecture, the Necropolis, Glasgow Cathedral and the Bridge of Sighs feature in *The Batman* (dir. Matt Reeves), as the "Dark Knight" returned to Scotland ten years after *The Dark Knight Rises* (see page 10) – this time with Robert Pattinson (*Twilight*) under the cowl. Reeves described the city as "beautiful" and a "very special place".

UNDER THE SKIN (2013)

Starring: Buchanan Galleries, Glasgow

Scarlett Johansson's man-stalking alien takes human form and goes on the prowl for victims in Glasgow, frequenting the Buchanan Galleries shopping centre, in the science fiction film directed by Jonathan Glazer, based on the novel by Michel Faber. See also pages 18, 28.

GREGORY'S GIRL (1981)

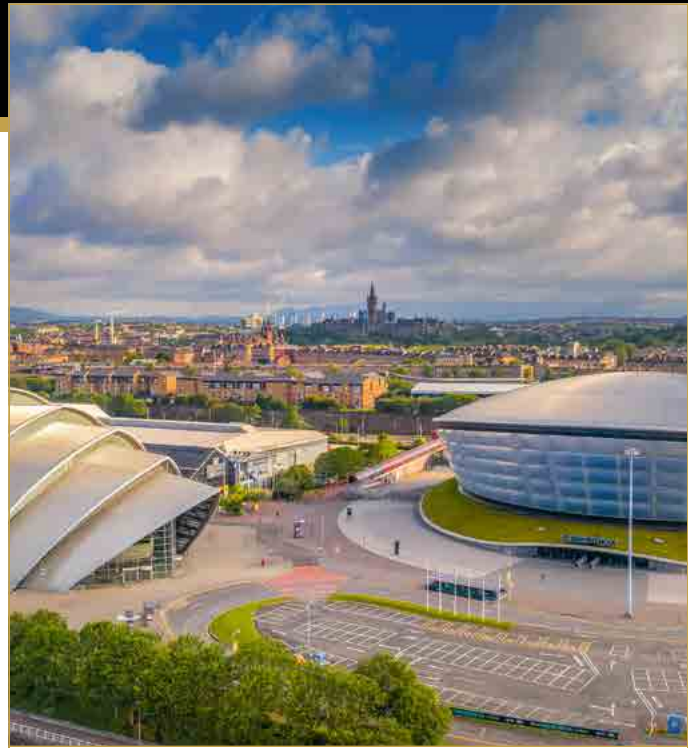
Starring: Cumbernauld

The film focuses on the hapless teenager Gregory (John Gordon Sinclair) and his unrequited love for the new star of the school football team, Dorothy (Dee Hepburn). Also starring Clare Grogan as Susan, this beloved Scottish classic by Bill Forsyth is the ultimate coming-of-age tale. Hilarious and touching in equal measure, there isn't a teenage boy anywhere who isn't able to empathise with Gregory's woes. *Gregory's Girl* was shot entirely on location in the North Lanarkshire new town of Cumbernauld, with much of the action taking place at the now-demolished Abronhill High School. However, you can find the famous St Enoch clock, where a white-jacketed Gregory waits aimlessly for Dorothy to show up, at the Antonine Shopping Centre. Another famous scene, which sees Gregory attempt to woo Susan by dancing on his back, was shot in Cumbernauld House Park.

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST: THE STORY OF FIRE SAGA (2020)

Starring: OVO Hydro, Glasgow

Scotland's largest entertainment venue is magically transposed from its location on the River Clyde in Glasgow to the foot of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, in this Will Ferrell comedy. See also page 26.



A view towards the West End of Glasgow with the OVO Hydro in the foreground.

THAT SINKING FEELING (1979)

Starring: Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow

The debut feature of Bill Forsyth (*Local Hero, Gregory's Girl*), the minuscule budget was such that he had to recruit members of the city's youth theatre, including Rab Buchanan and John Gordon Sinclair, to star in his sink-stealing crime caper. The film features the likes of Kelvingrove Park, Dennistoun, and Springburn and Bishopbriggs railway stations.

MADELEINE (1950)

Starring: Blythswood Square, Glasgow

Although mostly shot at Pinewood Studios, *Madeleine* (dir. David Lean) opens with a sweeping panorama of the West End of the city. Starring Lean's wife Ann Todd as Madeleine Smith, the Glasgow socialite who went on trial in 1857 accused of murdering her lover, the film was the second on which Lean and Todd had worked together following *The Passionate Friends* a year earlier. Blythswood Square and the exterior of the real home of Madeleine are also shown.



The Necropolis appears in The Batman, with Robert Pattinson. Jonathan Olley/™ & © DC Comics

SHALLOW GRAVE (1994) / TRAINSPOTTING (1996)

Starring: Rouken Glen Park, East Renfrewshire

The park played key roles in the first two movies by Oscar-winning English director Danny Boyle. In *Shallow Grave*, a wooded area of the park is the scene of the grave referred to in the title, where stars Ewan McGregor, Kerry Fox and Christopher Eccleston dispose of the body of Hugo (Keith Allen). It is also where McGregor (as heroin addict Renton) and Sick Boy (played by Jonny Lee Miller) philosophise while adopting Sean Connery accents and firing an air rifle at unsuspecting members of the public in *Trainspotting*. See also pages 10, 25, 26.

LICENSED TO THRILL

Few could have imagined, back in 1962, that a low-budget spy caper called Dr No (directed by Terence Young) would herald the beginning of the world's longest-running film franchise.

The release of *No Time To Die* (dir. Cary Joji Fukunaga) in 2021 marked the 25th outing for the UK's most conspicuous secret agent and the final bow of star Daniel Craig as Ian Fleming's 007. A byword for style, sophistication and cool, Edinburgh-born Sir Sean Connery, the first of six actors to date to play Bond on the big screen, wowed audiences throughout the world and a global superstar was born.

Originally sceptical over the choice of Connery, Fleming finally succumbed to the Scotsman's charms, even alluding to his spy's Scots ancestry in one of his last books – *You Only Live Twice* (published in 1964). It was also written that Bond attended the illustrious private school, Fettes, in Edinburgh.

Aside from beautiful women and ingenious gadgets, another key ingredient of the James Bond movies is exotic locations.

Five Bond films (starring four different versions of the man himself) have been partially filmed in Scotland – with some locations more surprising than others.



Sean Connery as James Bond in Goldfinger. © Ronald Grant Archive / TopFoto

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE
Terence Young, 1963

It's not unusual for filming locations to depict somewhere entirely different on screen, recent examples being Glasgow's appearance as Philadelphia in *World War Z* (2013) or as London in *Hobbs & Shaw* (2019).

Many years earlier, *From Russia With Love*, undoubtedly one of the best Bond movies, sees Bond (Sean Connery) and beautiful Russian agent Tatiana Romanova (Daniela Bianchi) being pursued by sinister SPECTRE agents in a speed boat in Turkey.

Unbeknown to the vast majority of cinemagoers, the final boat chase scene, due to filming difficulties, was actually shot on Loch Craignish, near Crinan, Argyll.

The famous helicopter chase scene, which was also shown in the opening credits of *Goldfinger*, was shot in the hills above Kilmichael Glen, just a few miles north of Lochgilphead.

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME
Lewis Gilbert, 1977

There's just a fleeting glimpse of Scotland this time, although it's a key moment in arguably the best of the Roger Moore movies. Released in 1977, *The Spy Who Loved Me* had it all: incredible stunts (the Union Jack parachute jump); gorgeous women (Barbara Bach and Caroline Munro); ingenious gadgets (the underwater Lotus); and an unforgettable bad guy (Jaws, played by Richard Kiel).

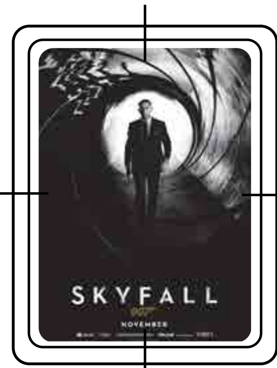
Her Majesty's Naval Base in Clyde (also known as Faslane), on the eastern shore of Gare Loch in Argyll and Bute, is where Commander Bond (in one of the few occasions he is seen wearing full Navy uniform) discovers that the loss of British submarines is no accident, but part of a sinister plot by the evil Stromberg (Curd Jurgens).

The Spy Who Loved Me. © Ronald Grant Archive / Topfoto
The World Is Not Enough. © Ronald Grant Archive / Topfoto
From Russia With Love. © Ronald Grant Archive / Topfoto
Skyfall. © United Archives / Topfoto
No Time To Die. © Hollywood Archive / Avalon / Photoshot / Topfoto











THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH
Michael Apted, 1999

Eilean Donan Castle has an unforgettable cameo in *The World is Not Enough* when it serves as the Scottish headquarters of MI6. The film's producers fully embraced the Scottish connection, with Q (Desmond Llewelyn) giving Bond (Pierce Brosnan) a demonstration of bagpipes that double as a flame thrower. Edinburgh-born Shirley Manson, lead singer of *Garbage*, performed the title song.

The scene featuring Llewelyn marked the Welsh actor's 17th and final appearance as Q, having made his debut as the gadget master in *From Russia With Love* more than 30 years previously.

SKYFALL
Sam Mendes, 2012

While Daniel Craig's Bond was seen jetting off to the Bahamas and South America in his first two outings, *Casino Royale* (dir. Martin Campbell, 2006) and *Quantum of Solace* (dir. Marc Forster, 2008), the character goes back to his roots in *Skyfall*. The secret agent's iconic Aston Martin DB5 even manages to get upstaged in a scene featuring Glen Etive, Glen Coe, while the car, containing Bond and M (Judi Dench) is filmed on the A82 near the peak of the striking Buachaille Etive Mor in The Highlands.

The actual *Skyfall* estate, in which gamekeeper Kincade (Albert Finney) blows away an evil henchman with the words "welcome to Scotland", was filmed in England.

NO TIME TO DIE
Cary Joji Fukunaga, 2021

In Daniel Craig's final outing as Bond, the secret agent's retirement in Jamaica is short-lived when CIA agent Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright) contacts him to trace a kidnapped scientist. It is only the start of his problems, which take in SPECTRE, the mysterious Lyutsifer Safin and a world-threatening biological weapon.

In one thrilling scene, Bond is chased along the bridges of the Norwegian islands and fjords and then, through the power of movie magic, turns off-road and into the forests of the Cairngorms, and the Ardverikie Estate on the shore of Loch Laggan (standing in for mainland Norway).

There is also 1967's *Casino Royale*, starring David Niven, who is seen driving past the Falls of Dochart in the village of Killin, near Stirling.

The film is something of an anomaly, along with 1983's *Never Say Never Again*, in that this is not an "official" Bond movie.

Along with the 2006 Bond revamp and a 1954 TV movie, this is one of three adaptations of Ian Fleming's first Bond novel. The spoof sees a total of six characters assume the role of the secret agent, including Niven, Peter Sellers, Woody Allen and, bizarrely, Ursula Andress, who played the iconic Honey Ryder in *Dr No*.

"The first couple of days we just sort of leaped into it. Immediately, we first of all had chosen an impossible location, about a half a mile up Glen Coe, so everything had to be hunked by sherpas up the mountain. We got up there, the very first shot of the film, the big moment, the camera turns and it jams. So we didn't have a sound camera and all of our great laid plans were suddenly up in the air. We panicked and we just had to try and get a film made suddenly on the spot, because we had this incredible location, no camera and no experience; that's the worst thing."

Terry Gilliam, co-director of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975)



WEST

Argyll & The Isles, Ayrshire & Arran

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring

Entrapment • *Falling for Figaro* • *The Flying Scotsman* • *The Governess*
How to Train your Dragon • *I Know Where I'm Going!* • *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*
The Maggie • *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* • *Restless Natives* • *Ring of Bright Water*
Then Came You • *When Eight Bells Toll* • *The Wicker Man*

James Bond locations

Find out more here



Culzean Castle and Country Park.



The Viewpoint at the Rest and Be Thankful.

THE WICKER MAN (1973)

Starring: Culzean Castle, Ayrshire

[SPOILER ALERT] "Come – it is time to keep your appointment with the Wicker Man." With these chilling words, the god-fearing Sergeant Neil Howie is led to his fiery doom by the cold-hearted Lord Summerisle in *The Wicker Man* (dir. Robin Hardy). Although their mild difference of opinion on religion ultimately ends with Howie (Edward Woodward) being burnt alive on a clifftop in Dumfries & Galloway, the dogged police officer's initial meeting with Summerisle (Christopher Lee) takes place in the more cordial clifftop surroundings of Culzean Castle. Designed by Robert Adam and constructed between 1777 and 1792, Culzean is today one of the most popular attractions owned by the National Trust for Scotland. While Culzean is used as the exterior of Lord Summerisle's mansion in *The Wicker Man*, the interior was actually filmed further south at Lochinch Castle, near Stranraer. See also page 49.

THE FLYING SCOTSMAN (2006)

Starring: Galston, Ayrshire

In East Ayrshire, the town of Galston was one of the main filming locations for *The Flying Scotsman* (dir. Douglas Mackinnon), which stars Jonny Lee Miller as local cycling hero Graeme Obree. Also starring Scottish actors Laura Fraser, Billy Boyd and Brian Cox, the movie tells the story of Obree's battle with mental health issues and his breaking of the world one-hour distance record. Another famous Scottish cyclist, multi-World and Olympic champion, Sir Chris Hoy, gives his name to Scotland's first velodrome (found in Glasgow).

THE GOVERNESS (1998)

Starring: Brodick Castle and Sannox, Arran

In British period drama *The Governess* (dir. Sandra Goldbacher), Minnie Driver's character refers to the Isle of Skye as "absurdly romantic, gothic even". Eagle-eyed viewers will note, however, that the Oscar-nominated actress doesn't once set foot on Skye, but instead spends much of the film on the Isle of Arran. Known as "Scotland in miniature", the island is divided into Highland and Lowland areas by the Highland Boundary Fault and offers the very best of the country in the space of 167 square miles. Driver plays the governess of the title, Rosina da Silva, who changes her name and escapes to the Highlands to work for a wealthy family on Skye. The Cavendish family home seen in the film is Brodick Castle, a National Trust for Scotland property, which dates back to the early 16th century. The jetty at Sannox, Arran, also features.

RESTLESS NATIVES (1985)

Starring: Rest and be Thankful, Argyll

The Rest and be Thankful beauty spot is the highest point of the A83 between Glasgow and Oban. Situated more than 800ft above sea level, it divides Glen Kinglass and Glen Croe. Coach tourists weren't feeling particularly thankful after being robbed here by a clown and a wolf man in the comedy directed by Michael Hoffman, but they'd probably take that over an encounter with Scarlett Johansson's man-eating alien at the same spot in *Under the Skin* (see also pages 18, 28, 38).



Ford Kiernan and Kathie Lee Gifford on set of Then Came You at Kilmorich Church. © Whiskey & Wine Ltd



Fingals Cave on Staffa Island.

THEN CAME YOU (2020)

Starring: Ardkinglas House & Estate and Kilmorich Church, Argyll

In a plot that could have been the basis for this guide, US TV presenter and singer Kathie Lee Gifford stars (and writes) as a widow who travels to Scotland, inspired by the movies shot here. While staying at an Inn (Ardkinglas House) she crosses paths with the gruff owner (Scots actor Craig Ferguson) and the possibility of happiness again. Co-starring Scots comedy actor, Ford Kiernan (*Still Game*), and Liz Hurley, the rom-com (dir. Adriana Trigiani) was shot in Argyll, including Kilmorich Church at Cairndow, and features stunning views across Loch Fyne and the surrounding landscape. The cast and crew stayed on location at Drimsynie Holiday Park during the six-week shoot, with Gifford staying at The Lodge on Loch Goil, which she was so taken with that she rewrote the film's ending to include it. Younger viewers will be familiar with the other fictional gruff owner who roams the Ardkinglas Estate – that of *The Gruffalo* – and you can meet his woodland friends, of snake, owl and fox, on The Gruffalo Trail.

FALLING FOR FIGARO (2020)

Starring: Glen Coe, Highlands and Luss, Argyll

In *Falling for Figaro* (dir. Ben Lewin), a young American fund manager (Danielle Macdonald) leaves her job and long-term boyfriend in pursuit of her lifelong dream of becoming an opera singer. Her search takes her north to the Scottish Highlands and former opera diva-turned singing teacher, Meghan Geoffrey-Bishop (Joanna Lumley).

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (2010)

Starring: Inner Hebrides

In the first film adaption of Cressida Cowell's book series of the same name, we are introduced to Hiccup (Jay Baruchel), an awkward 15-year-old son of the village chieftain, Stoick the Vast (played by Scottish actor Gerard Butler), who forms a bond with a fallen and injured Night Fury dragon he calls Toothless. Cowell based the Viking setting of Berk Island on one or more islands in the Inner Hebrides (she remains tight-lipped of the actual islands), and the filmmakers (dir. Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois) pay tribute to this with the Scottish acting talents of Butler, David Tennant and Craig Ferguson.

WHEN EIGHT BELLS TOLL (1971)

Starring: Fingal's Cave, Isle of Staffa.

Fingal's Cave, an extraordinary natural haven composed of hexagonally jointed basalt columns, has long drawn visitors to the uninhabited island of Staffa. The cave features in a helicopter fly-past in the Anthony Hopkins starring thriller *When Eight Bells Toll* (dir. Etienne Perier). Hopkins plays British secret agent Phillip Calvert in the big screen version of Scottish writer Alistair MacLean's 1965 novel. There was clearly an appetite for Argyll & the Isles-related espionage in the early Seventies, with screen legend Kirk Douglas filming scenes on Loch Awe (including the Loch Awe Hotel) for 1971's *To Catch a Spy* (directed by *Porridge* co-creator Dick Clement).



Castle stalker, aka Castle Aaaaarrrrrrggghhh!, on Loch Laich.



Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna in Ring Of Bright Water. © Ronald Grant Archive / Topfoto

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975)

Starring: Castle Stalker, Argyll

If your father were a hamster and your mother, indeed, smelled of elderberries, you might enjoy a trip to Loch Laich, near Appin. On a small island in the middle of the loch lies the impressive Castle Stalker – or "the Castle of Aaaaarrrrrrggghhh!" as it's known to Monty Python fans. It is from the roof of Castle Stalker in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (dir. Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam) that a French soldier, played by John Cleese, hurls these extraordinary Gallic insults down upon King Arthur (Graham Chapman). See also page 33.

ENTRAPMENT (1999)

Starring: Duart Castle, Isle of Mull

Duart Castle is a popular fortress that brings the 13th century to life. It's easy to see what attracted filmmakers here in the late 1990s, when the castle was used as the hideout of international art thief Robert "Mac" MacDougal (Sean Connery) in *Entrapment* (dir. Jon Amiel). It is here that Mac trains his accomplice Gin Baker (Catherine Zeta-Jones) to wriggle her way through security laser beams as they plan a major heist. Equally impressive as her acrobatic skills is the backdrop of the Isle of Mull.

THE MAGGIE (1954)

Starring: Isle of Islay, and Crinan Canal, Argyll

The Crinan Canal, which runs between Crinan and Ardrishaig, appears in this Ealing comedy classic (dir. Alexander Mackendrick) in which the crew of an aging puffer is contracted to deliver a valuable cargo between Glasgow and the remote port of Kiltarra – much to the chagrin of the American owner of the shipment. Extensive filming took place across Islay with Bowmore Harbour, Port Charlotte and Port Askaig making an appearance.

RING OF BRIGHT WATER (1969)

Starring: Oban, Argyll

Due to the fact it was shot almost entirely on location in the region, perhaps the film most closely associated with Argyll & The Isles is *Ring of Bright Water* (dir. Jack Couffer). Based on Scottish author and naturalist Gavin Maxwell's best-selling, semi-autobiographical tale of a writer who brings his pet otter to the west coast of Scotland, *Ring of Bright Water* is a traditional family favourite. The Railway Pier in Oban is where Graham Merrill (Bill Travers, who was following up his animal-loving role in 1966's *Born Free*) buys some fish for the otter, Mij. *Ring of Bright Water's* reliance on extraordinary Argyll & The Isles scenery makes it easy for film fans to follow in the footsteps of Merrill and Mij. Just seven miles south-west of Oban, you can cross the Clachan Bridge (better known as "the Bridge over the Atlantic") over to Seil Island.

I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING! (1945)

Starring: Corryvreckan Whirlpool

One of Scotland's most remarkable natural phenomena, the Corryvreckan Whirlpool, between the islands of Scarba and Jura – and the third largest in the world – forms a formidable barrier in *I Know Where I'm Going!* (dir. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger). Today, visitors can observe this fascinating wonder of nature in safety courtesy of a boat tour.

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (2018)

Starring: Loch Long, Argyll

The fifth instalment (dir. J. A. Bayona) in the dinosaur-rampaging series sees the Glen Mallan Jetty at Loch Long in Arrochar used to transport the captured creatures for their auction at the home of Sir Benjamin Lockwood (James Cromwell).

"We chose Celtic melodies where we could. Robbie Burns provided us with that perfect love song, Gently Johnny, which Paul Giovanni, our composer, himself sang, and Corn Rigs is the melody that takes us on our flight past the peaks of Skye to the palm-fringed coast of Summerisle."

Robin Hardy, director of *The Wicker Man* (1973)

SOUTH



Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Borders

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring

Avengers: Endgame • *Greystoke – the Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes* • *Hallam Foe* • *The House of Mirth* • *Mission: Impossible* • *Solomon Kane* • *The Thirty-Nine Steps* • *The Vanishing* • *The Wicker Man* • *The Wife*

Ourlaw King locations

Find out more here



The Galloway countryside whizzes by Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible. © LANDMARK MEDIA / Alamy Stock Photo

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (1996)

Starring: Dumfries to Annan rail line, Dumfries & Galloway

Based on the cult television series of the 1960s, and the first in the 'Tom Cruise runs' franchise, *Mission: Impossible* (dir. Brian De Palma) stars the Hollywood A-Lister as American spy Ethan Hunt on a deadly mission to find out who has framed him for murder. The climax of this big-budget action fest sees Cruise and Jon Voight clinging to the roof of a train as it speeds towards the Channel Tunnel. But the lush, green countryside whizzing by in the background as Jean Reno's helicopter hovers menacingly overhead is not Kent in the south of England, but rather the landscape on the Dumfries to Annan line in the south of Scotland. The region appealed to the producers as it was one of the few stretches of track in the UK without overhead electric cables and with few bridges.

HALLAM FOE (2007)

Starring: Tweed Valley, Scottish Borders

The Glen Estate near Innerleithen, in the mountain biking mecca that is the Tweed Valley, is home to Jamie Bell's eponymous lead in *Hallam Foe* (dir. David Mackenzie), which tells the story of a teenage loner haunted by his mother's death. See also page 27.

THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS (1978)

Starring: Drumlanrig Castle, Durisdeer and Morton Castle, Dumfries & Galloway

There is more espionage afoot in Dumfries & Galloway in Don Sharp's acclaimed version of John Buchan's classic novel. Fresh from playing the saviour of mankind in TV's *Jesus of Nazareth*, Robert Powell stepped into the role of Richard Hannay as he goes on the run from sinister Prussian agents. It was a character most notably portrayed by Robert Donat in Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 version (see page 25). While Sharp's film was notable for being the only version of the story up until that point not to feature the Forth Bridge, it was arguably the most faithful to the original novel which, rather than taking place in the Highlands, is actually set in Dumfries & Galloway. Also starring David Warner, John Mills and Karen Dotrice (of *Mary Poppins* fame), the film is set just before the outbreak of the First World War and features, among other locations, the village of Durisdeer, which contains the mausoleum of the Dukes of Queensberry; the Forest of Ae; the 17th-century Drumlanrig Castle; and the ruined Morton Castle, near Thornhill.



St Abbs twinned with New Asgard after Avengers: Endgame.

THE HOUSE OF MIRTH (2000)

Starring: Manderston, Scottish Borders

Manderston House near Duns was used as the home of the Trenors in *The House of Mirth* (dir. Terence Davies), starring Gillian Anderson as socialite Lily Bart, based on the novel of the same name by Edith Wharton. The Edwardian Country House stands in 56 acres of formal gardens, with magnificent stables and a stunning marble dairy, while the house itself has the only silver staircase in the world. See also page 36.

AVENGERS: ENDGAME (2019)

Starring: St Abbs, Scottish Borders

The follow-up to *Avengers: Infinity War*, which also gave Scotland a starring role (see page 27), briefly toppled James Cameron's *Avatar* as the world's highest-grossing film of all time. The fantasy epic (dir. Anthony and Joe Russo) picks up immediately after the 'snap' and sees the remaining Marvel superheroes coming to terms with a universe devastated by Thanos's actions. Chris Helmsworth returns as Thor and in his despair retreats to "New Asgard" in Norway. But that quaint fishing village is actually St Abbs in the Scottish Borders. Following the film's release, the village officially 'twinned' itself with New Asgard. Karen Gillan (Nebula) never appeared with her co-stars in Scotland, but did return to her hometown of Inverness for her directorial debut (*The Party's Just Beginning*, 2018).



Gerard Butler, Peter Mullan and Connor Swindells in The Vanishing. © LANDMARK MEDIA / Alamy Stock Photo

THE VANISHING (2019)

Starring, Mull of Galloway and Port Logan, Dumfries & Galloway

Loosely based on the disappearance of three lighthouse keepers on Flannan Isle in the Outer Hebrides in 1900, Gerard Butler and Peter Mullen star as the aforementioned keepers in this thriller (dir. Kristoffer Nyholm) presenting its own take on that true unsolved mystery. Filming took place along the coastline of Galloway, including Mull of Galloway, Scotland's southern-most point. Visitors to the award-winning Mull of Galloway Experience can climb the 115 steps to the top of Scotland's most southerly lighthouse. Nearby lighthouses, Killantringan and Corsewall also feature in part of the film, with Port Logan used as the harbour from which the men disembark for their fateful posting.

SOLOMON KANE (2010)

Starring: St Abb's Head, Scottish Borders

The swords-and-sorcery epic (dir. Michael J. Bassett), based on the comic books, stars James Purefoy in the title role as a 17th century English mercenary who has to battle demons to save his soul and his family. Nature reserve, St Abb's Head, features as Solomon's ancestral Devon home where an accident befalls his brother. The clifftop also provides the backdrop to the home of a super-intelligent orangutan in the 1986 horror, *Link* (dir. Richard Franklin).



Floors Castle in Kelso is Tarzan's home in Greystoke.

THE WIFE (2018)

Starring: Arbigland Estate, Dumfries & Galloway

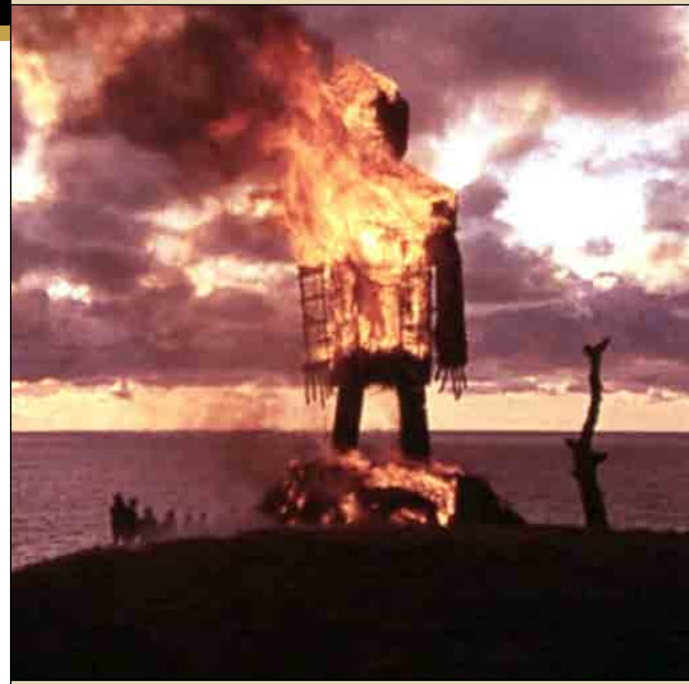
Based on the novel by Meg Wolitzer, *The Wife* (dir. Björn Runge) sees Oscar-nominated Glenn Close as Joan Castleman, an intelligent, charming and diplomatic woman and devoted wife, questioning her life choices as she accompanies her husband, Joe (Jonathan Pryce) to Stockholm, where he is set to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Despite being set in the USA and Sweden, the film was shot across Scotland (see also pages 25, 36) with the Arbigland Estate on the Solway Firth coast standing in for the on-screen couple's Connecticut beach house in New England.

GREYSTOKE – THE LEGEND OF TARZAN, LORD OF THE APES (1984)

Starring: Floors Castle, Scottish Borders

Based on Edgar Rice Burroughs' 1912 novel, *Tarzan of the Apes*, Hugh Hudson directed a pre-*Highlander* Christopher Lambert as he grappled with the role of literature's most famous loincloth-wearing vine-swinger in the snappily titled *Greystoke – the Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*. Having been raised by primates in the African jungle following the death of his parents, the re-christened "Jean" is shipped over to his family's stately home in England. In reality, the stately home was shot in Scotland, with the 18th century Floors Castle in Kelso being used for the exterior and ballroom shots of Greystoke.

The fiery climax of The Wicker Man.



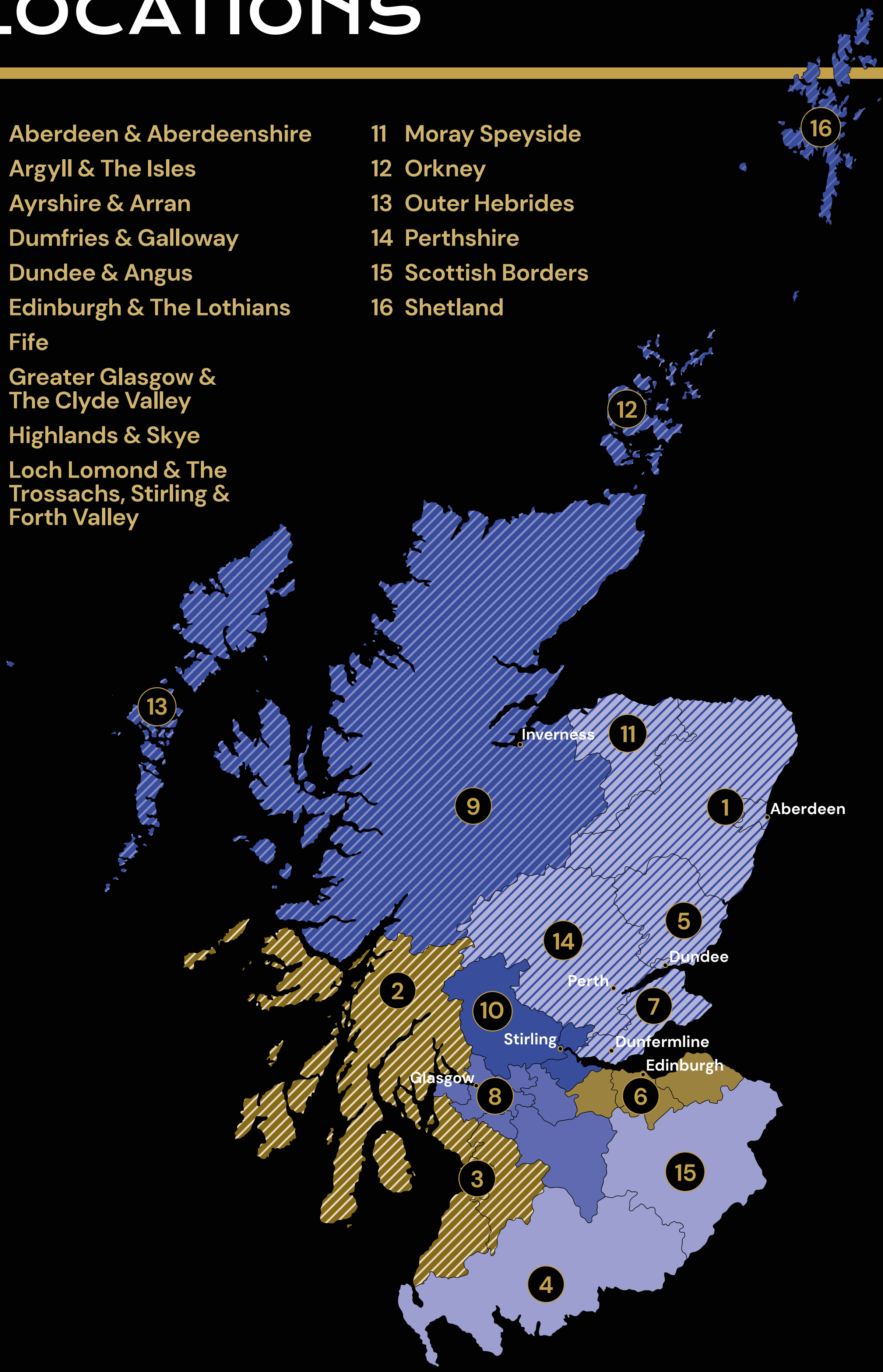
THE WICKER MAN (1973)

Starring: Anworth, Creetown and Burrow Head, Dumfries & Galloway

This British horror classic is most associated with the region, with director Robin Hardy shooting extensively in the towns and villages of Dumfries & Galloway. The quiet rural locations exuding an altogether more menacing quality on-screen as Sergeant Neil Howie (Edward Woodward) flies to the fictional Scottish island of Summerisle to solve the mystery of a missing schoolgirl. Instead of co-operation from the islanders, Howie instead uncovers bizarre pagan rituals and disturbing tales of human sacrifice. The fiery climactic scene was shot on the clifftops of Burrow Head, near the Isle of Whithorn, one of the most southerly points in Scotland. The nearby St Ninian's Cave, reputed to be a retreat for Scotland's first saint, not only serves as a place of holy pilgrimage, but also as a favourite spot for *The Wicker Man* fans. It was here that Howie emerges on to the beach and is led away during the climax. Several sequences were also filmed in the small village of Anwoth and Kirkcudbright, while the interior of The Green Man Pub, where Willow (Britt Ekland) first tries to unleash her charms on Howie, was shot in the Ellangowan Hotel bar in Creetown. See also page 43.

LOCATIONS

1 Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire
2 Argyll & The Isles
3 Ayrshire & Arran
4 Dumfries & Galloway
5 Dundee & Angus
6 Edinburgh & The Lothians
7 Fife
8 Greater Glasgow & The Clyde Valley
9 Highlands & Skye
10 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, Stirling & Forth Valley
11 Moray Speyside
12 Orkney
13 Outer Hebrides
14 Perthshire
15 Scottish Borders
16 Shetland



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INDEX Films by region

Our Ladies (2021)
Outlaw King (2018)
The Party's Just Beginning (2018)
The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (1970)
Prometheus (2012)
Robert the Bruce (2019)
Seachd: The Inaccessible Pinnacle (2007)
Skyfall (2012)
Snow White and the Huntsman (2012)
Stardust (2007)
Three: Love, Lies, Betrayal (2009)
Trainspotting (1996)
Transformers:The Last Knight (2017)
Victoria & Abdul (2017)
The World Is Not Enough (1999)
What We Did On Our Holiday (2014)

Outer Hebrides
Brave (2012)
Limbo (2021)
The Road Dance (2022)
2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)
Whisky Galore! (1949)

Orkney
The BFG (2016)
The Spy in Black (1939)

Shetland
The Edge of the World (1937)
It's Nice Up North (2006)

SOUTH

Dumfries & Galloway
Mission: Impossible (1996)
The Thirty-Nine Steps (1978)
The Vanishing (2019)
The Wicker Man (1973)
The Wife (2018)

Scottish Borders
Avengers: Endgame (2019)
Greystoke – the Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes (1984)
Hallam Foe (2007)
The House of Mirth (2000)
Link (1986)
Mary, Queen of Scots (1971)
Mrs Brown (1997)
Solomon Kane (2010)

WEST

Argyll & the Isles
Entrapment (1999)
Falling for Figaro (2020)
From Russia With Love (1963)
How to Train your Dragon (2010)
I Know Where I'm Going! (1945)
Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018)
The Maggie (1954)
Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)
Restless Natives (1985)
Ring of Bright Water (1969)
The Spy Who Loved Me (1977)
Then Came You (2020)
To Catch a Spy (1971)
Under the Skin (2013)
When Eight Bells Toll (1971)
Whisky Galore! (2016)

Ayrshire & Arran
The Flying Scotsman (2006)
The Governess (1998)
Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998)
The Queen (2006)
The Wicker Man (1973)



The Calanais Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis.

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Newspaper articles, online resources, documentaries and Scotland's film location offices were used while researching *Set in Scotland*. Specialist research and consultation was provided by David Martin-Jones.

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Quotes: Christopher Lambert, *Screen Anarchy*, 2016; Hugh Hudson, *The Guardian*, 2012; Joe Russo, *Film Edinburgh*, 2018; Justin Lin, *STV News at Six*, 2013; Robin Hardy, *BBC News Online*, 2011; Saoirse Ronan, *VisitScotland*, 2019; Terry Gilliam, *BBC Film Night*, 1974.


ST ABBS
Twinned with
NEW ASGARD
20
Take a journey through films shot and set in Scotland.
Discover the ancient mountain ranges, mysterious stone circles, lush green glens, deep lochs, majestic castles, stately homes and vibrant cities which have starred on the big screen.
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